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# THE TIMES

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40p

## Republics rejoice at recognition

# Serbian anger greets death of Yugoslavia

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

CROATIA and Slovenia won their battle for recognition as independent states yesterday, signalling the end of the Yugoslavia created in 1918.

Leaders of the two break-away republics rejoiced as the European Community and a dozen other countries decided to recognise them, but the Serb-dominated federal government in Belgrade denounced the move as contrary to Yugoslavia's sovereign rights.

"This means that the disappearance of Yugoslavia has been acknowledged officially, that Yugoslavia does not exist any more," Franjo Greguric, the Croatian prime minister, declared.

The question of recognition had caused divisions within the EC, and yesterday's announcement was seen as a diplomatic triumph for Germany. The Bonn government

said last month that it would recognise both republics, but delayed implementation while its Community partners sought guarantees on human rights. The case for Slovenian independence appeared clear cut, but Britain and France, in particular, had reservations about the rights of the Serbian minority in Croatia.

France was still insisting yesterday that full diplomatic relations could be established only when undertakings given by Croatia had been written into the republic's constitution; and Britain said it expected swift action to be taken to remedy deficiencies in the Croatian law relating to minorities. Germany, meanwhile, hastened to upgrade its consulates in Zagreb and Ljubljana to embassies.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, cited the EC's united decision as evidence that his country's policy on Yugoslavia had been proved right. Germany had argued for recognition, for UN involvement to stop the civil war and for a UN peacekeeping force, but Cyrus Vance, the UN mediator, had feared that recognition would aggravate the situation. "We said that it would certainly defuse it. We were right," Herr Genscher said. He would now press for the republics to be granted associate status by the EC and membership of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.



Genscher: EC decision proves Germany right

leading role in securing independence was lauded with a pop song called "Thanks Germany", and in Split, a snack bar was renamed the Cafe Genscher. In Bonn, a crowd-waving banners and flags in offer thanks to Germany. There and in Croatia, officials were at pains to reassure the international community that Nazi ties between the two states would not be revived. Zvonimir Separovic, the Croatian foreign minister, said: "Some still believe that we are connected with Germany and that Germany is creating a fourth reich from the Baltics to the south. This is crazy."

But on the streets of Zagreb, the celebrations were muted by uncertainty. Some people feared that recognition would further convince Serbia and the federal army that the international community was biased against them, hindering UN and EC peace efforts.

Belgrade radio began its morning's broadcast by declaring: "This is a black day for Yugoslavia." And Vladimir Jovanovic, the Serbian foreign minister, denounced Germany, saying: "It is deplorable that a country which was itself divided for 50 years should try to destroy our country by promoting inequality and unilateral secession."

For all Herr Genscher's optimism, the EC decision still leaves many problems unsolved. The Community has recognised the Croatian borders in operation before the civil war — but a third of the republic's territory is still occupied by the federal army and much of the country's infrastructure lies in tatters.

There could also be problems in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia, which the Community has not yet recognised. Racial tension in Bosnia is rising and some diplomats fear it may prove to be the next Balkan flashpoint.

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Anne McElvoy and diary, page 14  
Leading article, page 15

## GPs show success of health reforms

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE government will receive unexpected support for its NHS reforms with the publication next month of a study showing that the introduction of GP budget holding has been a surprising success.

Giving GPs their own budgets with which to buy hospital services was seen as the wild card in the NHS reforms because it could undermine health authorities' plans. But the study, to be published by the independent King's Fund Institute, shows that budget holding has not led, as feared, to the development of a two-tier service, a bias in favour of healthier patients or difficulties with planning. The scheme is popular with GPs and could bring significant improvements for patients.

The findings are likely to be seized on by ministers as further evidence that the NHS reforms are working. Earlier this week, the government

published its rose-tinted vision of the first six months of the reforms, claiming that the number of patients treated had risen and waiting lists over one and two years had fallen.

The study, which looked at the effects of budget holding in three regions, found that the primary motive of the GPs involved was to improve relations with their local hospital because their options for taking their business elsewhere in the health market were limited. They were anxious to avoid alienating non-budget holding GPs and did not try to negotiate deals allowing their patients to queue jump local waiting lists.

Their main motive was to obtain greater freedom and to gain more control over hospital services, so that they

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Healthy statistics, page 14



On song: Croatian soldiers welcome recognition with an impromptu folk concert in Sunja yesterday

## Labour slows up on tax changes

BY ROBIN OAKLEY AND JILL SHERMAN

SERIOUS doubts arose within the Labour party yesterday about how fast it could act on its pledges to scrap the ceiling on national insurance contributions and increase the higher rate of income tax to 50 per cent.

Margaret Beckett, the shadow chief secretary, is insisting that Labour will need the revenue from the national insurance changes immediately to carry out its promises to increase pensions and child benefit. Suggestions that the changes could be phased surprised Labour front benchers yesterday.

But, in the face of the Tory assault on its tax policies, other senior Labour sources have begun to emphasise commitments in the party's policy documents to move gradually and to cushion the impact of the party's pledges to scrap the national insurance ceiling and raise the top tax rate to 50 per cent.

The Labour leadership is talking of phasing in the insurance change which will increase the tax of three million who earn more than £20,000.

Labour has long been committed to raise the top income tax rate from 40 to 50 per cent. But the starting point has not been determined. Neil Kinnock says that the higher rate will apply to those "earning well over £30,000". Labour is also committed to remove the ceiling on national insurance contributions by employees, at present £405 a week or £20,280 a year. Abolition of the insurance

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Diary, page 14

## Lloyd's proposes a safety net for names

BY GAVIN STIRLING

A LLOYD'S of London task force has proposed reforms of the struggling £10 billion insurance market that would limit losses faced by investors. Their report "Lloyd's: A Route Forward" suggests companies be allowed to invest in the insurance market, a further compromise of the tradition that Lloyd's members face unlimited liability and are responsible for meeting claims out of their personal wealth.

Proposals from the task force follow the defection of members, known in the market as names, in the face of huge losses from litigation and natural disasters. Some 6,350 names have left in the past two years leaving the present number at 22,500.

Membership of the once lucrative market hinges on unlimited liability of members who have to put all their

wealth on the line to cover any claims. This principle remains, despite pressure from the names to remove it, but the reforms proposed include a ceiling on losses to be introduced next year. Extra losses would be covered from a central fund to be set up from a levy on all the names. A central fund already exists but it is only used as a last resort to guarantee payment of insurance claims.

Last year, the market announced a loss of £510 million for its latest complete accounts in 1988. Results are reported three years late to allow for claims to be settled. Names at present have £10.2 billion invested in the market.

Lloyd's said that the reforms could take four or five years to decide on the many proposals put forward by the reform committee. Most proposals have, however, already

been approved by the Lloyd's council.

The insurance market first began at the Lloyd's coffee house in London's Tower Street in 1688. There merchants negotiated rates to insure each other's cargoes against non-delivery. Professional underwriters did not begin operating until 1769. The market made its reputation by paying out on the the San Francisco earthquake.

Leading article, page 15  
Names protection, page 21  
Report details, page 24  
Lloyd's landmark, page 25

## Gulf war ministers 'interfered too much'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS and civil servants are accused of too much interference during the Gulf war, in a report by a senior member of the armed forces. Concern over costs forced ministers to reject "justifiable" military requests much too far into the campaign.

The confidential report, leaked yesterday, was one of many sent in after an invitation by Tom King, the defence secretary, for officers to give their views on Operation Granby, Britain's campaign in the Gulf. The reports were examined and an assessment of the lessons learned was

drawn up by Air Chief Marshal Sir David Parry-Evans. The author of the leaked report complained that the Defence Operations Executive, responsible for central control of operations at the Ministry of Defence, was weak. Meetings were described as "rambling" and "inconclusive".

Yesterday Mr King admitted there had been "disagreements over particular details within the decision-making process. But that was not allowed to interfere with the overall team effort and the success it achieved," he said.

## Meet a new breed of businessman. (They're called miners.)

You may not think our workforce has much in common with Sir John Harvey-Jones, but as far as we're concerned, they've got as much to offer. Their attitude has helped to more than double productivity in just five years. It also put us into profit last year.

By encouraging everyone to contribute to building our success, we are now making the most of one of Britain's most powerful assets. And everything we do is aimed at giving our customers a better deal. One of our businessmen summed it up rather well: "We are tapping the richest seam of all - the hidden talents of our workforce."

**British COAL**

THE ENERGY TO SUCCEED

## MPs invite Maxwells

Ian and Kevin Maxwell got a second chance last night to give their version of how millions of pounds were siphoned off from the Mirror Group pension fund. After refusing to answer questions put by the Commons social security committee on Monday, they will be summoned to a second hearing.

After a three-hour meeting yesterday, the committee decided to agree to a suggestion by Maxwell lawyers to send the brothers written questions in advance. Page 2  
Records missing, page 21

## Guildford call

Three police officers involved in the Guildford Four case should face trial, despite a magistrate's decision to drop charges against them of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, the High Court was told. Page 2

## Jail 'terror'

The riot at Strangeways prison, Manchester, in April 1990 brought violence and terror to inmates in a segregated wing, a jury at Manchester Crown Court heard. Page 3

## Wasted lives

At least 5,000 patients a year in Britain die unnecessarily from cancer and are part of a lottery in which all sufferers stand only a random chance of getting the best care, a leading specialist said. Page 4

## Bush slides

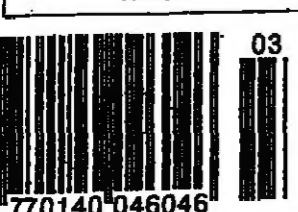
President Bush faced further bad news as he campaigned for next month's first presidential primary. The latest opinion poll showed only 35 per cent of those surveyed wanted him to be re-elected. Page 9

## Dollar gains

The dollar soared on the foreign exchange markets amid hopes of a recovery in America. Sterling slumped almost 5½ cents to \$1.7530. Page 21

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## Rifkind on track for victory over InterCity sell-off



Rifkind: compromise deal is now emerging

MALCOLM Rifkind is heading for victory in his cabinet battle to make an InterCity sell-off the spearhead of the government's blueprint for privatising British Rail.

Senior ministerial sources disclosed yesterday that John Major is on the point of conceding that his dream of resurrecting the golden age of rail travel by reviving the pre-nationalisation regional companies should play second fiddle to a disposal of the only profitable part of the BR empire.

The transport secretary has argued strongly that InterCity, which made a profit of £50 million last year, should be sold as a going concern, complete with track, rolling stock and stations, if privatisation of the railways is ever to be a success.

His proposals had run into late resistance from the prime minister, egged on by the Downing Street policy unit and the Centre for Policy Studies, who have urged a comeback for companies such as the Great Western and the London and Midland under their distinctive old colours.

After Tuesday's meeting at Downing Street of the informal group of cabinet ministers, led by Mr Major, drawing up proposals for a white paper before the election, the sources indicated that the basis of a compromise was emerging. InterCity would be sold as a single entity but, at the same time,

The transport minister appears to have won over objectors, including John Major, to his plans for rail privatisation, Nicholas Wood writes

Mr Major would have the consolation of fathering a rebirth of the regional structure.

One senior minister said yesterday: "Progress was made at the meeting. Certain options were dropped and the position is now much clearer." According to one insider, the newly formed regional companies would be free to operate services in competition with a newly

privatised InterCity, either on the same track or on new track laid for the purpose.

At the meeting, Mr Rifkind was said to have circumvented one of the main obstacles to his scheme for moving BR into the private sector. Earlier in the week, a leaked internal report from BR suggested that if InterCity was transferred to the private sector, the new management would close all its unprofitable services, withdrawing from 60 towns and cities. The transport secretary has defused this possibility by proposing that it would be a condition of sale that threatened services would be safeguarded for a number of years.

Mr Rifkind was said yesterday to have won the backing of Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, who has been pushing, on competition grounds, for a third option, in which a national track authority would award franchises to private operators to run services on line-by-line basis. Mr Lilley is believed to have dropped his scheme and to be backing the compromise plan forward by the transport secretary.

Mr Major was said to be "not totally happy" with the latest approach and had postponed a decision pending more talks with his advisers. However, he appears to be close to resolving his differences with Mr Rifkind.

Leading article, page 15

## Guildford Four police 'should face charges'

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THREE police officers involved in the Guildford Four case should face trial. In spite of a magistrate's decision to drop charges against them of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, the High Court was told yesterday.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney-General, said that the magistrate had been wrong in all but one of the conclusions he reached in discharging the three men.

Sir Patrick, making a rare court appearance, asked three judges to quash the decision of Ronald Bartle, the Bow Street stipendiary magistrate, to dismiss the charges against the officers and to order him to go ahead with criminal proceedings. Mr Bartle ruled last year that the proceedings against the three men were an abuse of the process of the court and that,

"on the balance of probabilities", they could not receive a fair trial.

Sir Patrick said: "The evidence, say the Crown, gave him no ground for holding that a fair trial was probably not possible." The magistrate had reached an unreasonable conclusion.

Charges against Thomas Style, John Donaldson and Vernon Atwell arose from the case of the Guildford Four, jailed for life for the 1974 Guildford and Woolwich pub bombings but freed by the Court of Appeal in October 1989. The Surrey officers were charged with conspiring to pervert the course of justice by manufacturing and putting forward notes said to be contemporaneously made in interviews with Patrick Armstrong, one of the four.

Mr Style and Mr Atwell were present in court yesterday for the start of the hearing, expected to last four days. All three men, who have consistently denied the charges, are represented by counsel to oppose the prosecution's move.

Sir Patrick said that the magistrate had concluded that the delay since the case had been sufficiently extreme to raise an inference of prejudice; that the defendants had suffered disadvantages through the lapse of time which could prejudice a fair trial; that public comment through the media was highly prejudicial and that the failure by investigating officers of the Avon and Somerset police, who enquired into the case, to caution the defendants was a misuse and manipulation of the process of the court.

Sir Patrick said that, in all but his first conclusion, the magistrate had been plainly wrong. Any prejudice caused by the lapse of time was not sufficient to give rise to the risk that a fair trial would be impossible. "Of course, 17 years is a very long time," he said. But the case depended much on the documentary evidence, and that rendered the time lapse less significant.

Sir Patrick said that the Crown was not saying that no prejudice arose out of the lapse of time, but that the delay was not sufficient to affect the probability of a fair trial. On the question of possible prejudice caused by publicity, Sir Patrick said that any trial could not take place before the autumn, and the last television programme about the case was now nearly two years ago.

Any jurors hearing the case against the officers would receive a strong admonition from the trial judge to disregard what they might have seen or heard, Sir Patrick said.

The case continues.

## Pushers 'target young' at English riviera

By BILL FROST

A GENERATION of children is being targeted by drug pushers in an affluent Devon resort where heroin, cocaine and ecstasy are available as easily as cream teas, parents have claimed.

So concerned are parents in Brixham that they have formed an action committee and offered to pay £15,000 a year to hire their own drugs squad officer.

Brian Crowley, a counsellor with Stepping Stones, a privately run community project which aims to educate the young about the dangers of abuse, said: "The youngest referral so far has been an eight-year-old child who neighbours found smoking a joint. We regularly deal with overdoses on other drugs and have youngsters phoning us during the small hours in a suicidal state because of what they have taken."

Dolly Crowley, who runs Stepping Stones with her husband, said parents had initially been unwilling to admit the problem existed. "Brixham, the English Riviera, drugs here? They would not face it. Now they have to because we estimate that half of all the teenagers in the town have experimented with drugs, solvents or alcohol."

Teenagers lounging outside an amusement arcade readily confirm that drugs were plentiful in Brixham. "There has been more of everything around for the past four months or so, and it is cheap, £9 for a tab of ecstasy," one boy said.

Steven, a member of the



Last resort: Brian Crowley, who counsels young drug abusers in Brixham, with Kirsty, a former addict

parents' action committee, went underground to gather intelligence on the pushers. He visits arcades, cafes and public houses. "They come from London, Birmingham and Liverpool and decide there are rich pickings here. Some of the minor league dealers use CB radio to let buyers know they have a stock in."

Steven, who does not want his real name used for fear of reprisals and the risk of jeopardising his cover, feared a whole generation was under threat in Brixham. "My son is four, and the pushers have

targeted primary as well as secondary schools. If we don't do something now, what sort of world will he inherit?"

Kirsty, aged 19, a former drug, alcohol and solvent user, who says she is "clean" at the moment, said: "You can get anything you want in Brixham: ecstasy, LSD, heroin, cocaine or cannabis. I started abusing solvents at the age of ten, some of the kids now are even younger and if somebody doesn't do something for them soon, they are finished."

Mr Crowley said: "We must have a drugs squad here. At

the moment the nearest officers trained to deal with the problem are in Paignton and their resources are thinly stretched. It is about time someone recognised there is a serious problem on the English Riviera."

Police have welcomed the parents' campaign to cut drug abuse in Brixham. However, the private funding of an officer to root out the pushers required a higher sanction. "Something so radical would need to be considered by the chief constable and the Home Office," Inspector Dick Compton said.

In the past six months two dozen people in Brixham have faced drugs charges, a third of them for possession with intent to supply. Inspector Compton said: "There is a problem here, but no greater than in other similar towns."

Mr Crowley does not agree. "Police manpower is so thin in Brixham. The problem is here and now — high unemployment, no industry to speak of and nothing for the young to do."

"The pushers are selling drugs to youngsters for whom life has become first boring and then depressing."

## Explain the reasons for sentences, judges told

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE senior Court of Appeal judge in charge of training the judiciary yesterday urged judges to be more ready to give their reasons when passing sentence to dispel public misconceptions that sentences were unfair.

Lord Justice Gidwell, who chairs the Judicial Studies Board, also gave support to a permanent standing body which could advise judges on sentencing; and on training judges in racial awareness to "eradicate any such prejudices that they might have".

In an interview to coincide with the publication of a review of the board's work, he said that he did not support the idea of a so-called "sentencing council" where people other than senior judiciary might make decisions about appropriate levels of sentence.

However, Lord Justice Gidwell did see a role for a body giving advice to judges on research, new methods of treatment and as a "channel

for disseminating information" or a "means of getting together the senior judiciary with people from prisons and the probation service".

One of the main aims of the board, he said, was to try to eradicate inconsistencies in sentencing and to "try to engrain in people what the accepted standards is; and to seek to persuade them not to depart from it except if they think they have good reason, and then to explain it."

On the sensitive issue of training judges in racial awareness, one of the most "difficult" fields on which he had embarked, Lord Justice Gidwell said that it was helpful for judges to be given information which they might not necessarily have instinctively.

For example, he said, some Afro-Caribbean cultures did not allow a person to look directly at someone questioning or reprimanding them. "If that happened in court, a judge might think the defen-

dant was being evasive when he was only doing what he had been taught," he said.

Earlier this year, an ethnic minorities advisory committee was created, which will advise on the concerns and problems of ethnic minorities.

Solicitors from local law societies throughout England and Wales meet today to decide whether to take strike action over the Lord Chancellor's proposals to apply fixed fees to legal aid work in magistrates' courts.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, wants standard fees to replace the present system of payment by the hour from April. Opposition to the scheme has already led in some parts of the country to solicitors taking strike action in the shape of withdrawals from the duty rota scheme at police stations.

Judicial Studies Board: Report for 1987-1990 (HMSO, £7.90).

## Labour rethinks tax change plans

Continued from page 1  
ceiling would affect 12 per cent of taxpayers, many in marginal seats in the south which Labour needs to win an election victory.

Labour had thought that the tax increases could be sold politically, because extra revenue is earmarked to finance increases in the state pension and to restore the April 1987 level of child benefit. But the all-out Tory assault on Labour's tax plans and the assessment by independent observers that people on £500 per week would be £35 per week worse off under Labour's tax proposals appears to be inducing a rethink, or at least a re-emphasis.

Neil Kinnock and his colleagues are now keen to emphasise the promises in earlier policy documents of a gradual change. Shadow ministers can claim that the phasing commitment has always been there. "Looking to the Future" in 1990 said that tax changes would be introduced gradually.

Labour sources concede

that the party has been unwise in allowing the impression to grow that the tax and insurance changes would all be made immediately.

Amid increasing talk of a hung parliament, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said yesterday that his party would not support any tax proposals which increased the burden on those in the £27,000 to £33,000 a year group.

The Liberal Democrats plan a merger of income tax and national insurance systems which would add the present national insurance contribution to income tax levels. But more graduated steps would see those on £33,000 a year paying a top rate of 42 per cent and those on £50,000 and above a maximum of 49 per cent, compared to Labour's 59 per cent. The Liberal Democrats too are pledged to increase pensions by £5 and £8 and to lift child benefit for all children to £9.55.

Diary, page 14

## Maxwells given new chance to answer

The Maxwell brothers were given a second chance last night to tell their side of the story of how millions of pounds were siphoned off from the Mirror Group pension fund (Jill Sherman writes).

Following their refusal to answer questions put by the Commons social security committee on Monday, Ian and Kevin Maxwell will now be summoned to a second hearing.

After a three-hour meeting yesterday the committee decided to back away from a direct confrontation with the brothers and agreed to a suggestion put by their lawyers on Monday to send the Maxwells written questions in advance.

The committee denied that its decision was a compromise despite the fact that it goes half-way to meeting the lawyers' demands. On Monday lawyers acting for both Ian and Kevin Maxwell insisted that the brothers should maintain their right to silence: to avoid incriminating themselves.

MCC records, page 21

## College titles change blocked

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, yesterday removed the possibility of colleges taking university titles under the government's higher education reforms (John O'Leary writes).

Although polytechnics will have an automatic entitlement to university status, colleges will need at least 4,000 students, courses in a wide range of subjects and the power to award research degrees to qualify. None is likely to meet the government's criteria in the foreseeable future.

## Blind teacher's appeal rejected

A teacher who was blind from birth had his appeal against a decision to make him redundant rejected by an industrial tribunal yesterday.

Derek Troll, aged 43, who taught at Hounslow Manor school, west London, was the first teacher in Hounslow education authority to be made redundant last March under reforms which passed control of staff from the authority to school governors. He claimed that the decision was unfair and discriminatory, and that the governors had not given him enough time to prepare his case.

## Housekeeper's attacker jailed

A man with the head of Christ tattooed on his chest was jailed for nine years at the Central Criminal Court, London, for raping a priest's housekeeper.

Steven Beech, aged 28, unemployed, of south London, burst into the house while the woman, in her sixties, was telephoning a friend. The recipient of the call heard her shouts and alerted the police. Beech, who was said to have been drinking heavily, was arrested at the house. He denied rape but admitted indecent assault.

## Enquiry ends

Scotland Yard said yesterday that it had concluded its investigation, and would take no further action, over a large bundle of private colour photographs of the Duchess of York said to have been found in a London apartment by a cleaner, and handed to police last week. The duchess is due to fly to Florida today in connection with the Motor Neurone Disease Association, of which she is patron.

## Exit halted

The Home Office was ordered by a High Court judge yesterday to halt the deportation of Ahmed Abdullah, a 26-year-old Sudanese, who says he fled to Britain after becoming the victim of neo-Nazi violence while trying to seek asylum in Germany. Mr Justice Pill said the decision to deport Abdullah back to Germany must be suspended to allow time for judicial review proceedings.

## Hammond goes

Eric Hammond is to step down as general secretary of the EETPU electricians' union on March 13, a week after the result of a ballot on a proposed merger with the Amalgamated Engineering Union is due to be announced. Mr Hammond, aged 62, who was leader of the union when it was expelled from the TUC three years ago, said it was an appropriate time to retire.

## In which the Forest is replanted and Pooh is delighted

By MICHAEL HORNSBY  
AGRICULTURE  
CORRESPONDENT

HUNDRED Acre Wood, the haunt of Christopher Robin and his friends Pooh, Piglet and Owl, has been replanted after being devastated by the storm of October 1987.

The woodland and the adjacent Ashdown Forest in East Sussex provided the setting for Winnie-the-Pooh and The House at Pooh Corner. A. A. Milne's stories about a Bear of Very Little Brain that have delighted generations of children and adults.

The woodland is the fictional location of Owl's house, famous for having "both a knocker and a bell-pull" and called the Wolery by its occupant, who

was notorious for his unreliable spelling. In real life the area is known as the Five Hundred Acre Wood and lies mostly within the Buckhurst estate of Lord De La Warr, whose family owned the whole of Ashdown Forest up to four years ago.

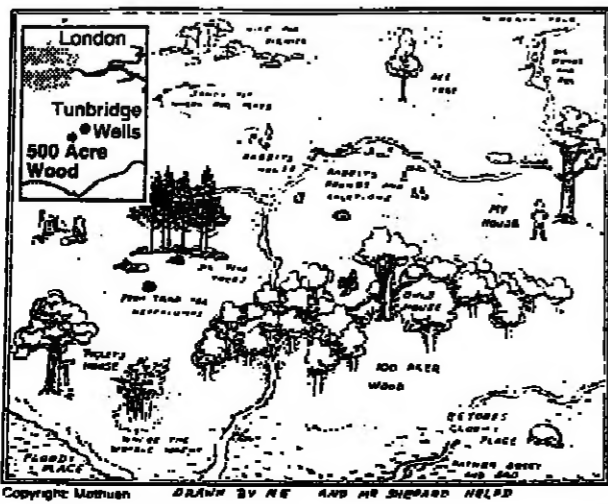
In the 1987 storm, even worse than the "blustery day" when Owl's home was blown down, the estate lost 500 of its 800 acres of productive timber. "Five Hundred Acre Wood was in the eye of the storm and about three fifths of the trees we lost was there," Lord De La Warr said yesterday. "Most were conifers and fairly young and so less able to resist the gale."

Replanting of the estate with 243,000 trees has just been completed. This time more broadleaved, hardwood

species, such as oak, beech and wild cherry, have been included, in addition to faster growing conifers such as larch and Scots pine. It will be about 50 years before the wood will be restored to something like it was before the storm.

Christopher R. Milne, A. A. Milne's son and the Christopher Robin of the books, who played in the woods as a boy with Lord De La Warr's father, said yesterday that it was a reasonable mixture of trees. Mr Milne, aged 71, spoke from his home at Stoke Fleming, Devon, where he retired ten years ago from running a bookshop in Dartmouth.

Other parts of Ashdown Forest, including Gilt's Lap (renamed Galleon's Lap by Milne), also suffered badly in the 1987 gales, and have been replanted as they were in 1825.



Screams of 'get the keys for the beasts and let's kill them' after Sunday service

## Jail inmates hurled 20ft by rioters, QC says

BY RONALD FAUX

RIOTING prisoners beat up an inmate, hurled him over the railings outside his cell, probably forced him up again and threw him down a second time, Manchester crown court was told yesterday.

The prisoner's cell was found to have splashes of blood from the floor to a height of five feet, Brian Leveson, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury as the trial began of five prisoners charged with murder and riot and three more accused of riot.

Mr Leveson said that after rioters took control at Strangeways prison, Manchester, in April 1990, inmates in a segregated wing of the prison cowered in terror as masked men broke into their barricaded cells, threatened them with death, beat them unconscious and threw some of them 20ft into a net in the well of the cell block. One inmate, Derek White, aged 46, who was beaten about the head and chest, died in hospital two days later from pulmonary embolism.

Paul Taylor, aged 27; Alan Lord, 30; Sydney Doran, 25; Martin McLatchie, 35; and Andrew Nelson, 21; were charged with murder and riot. James Millar, 31; John Spencer, 29; and Brian Parke, 23; faced riot charges. All eight plead not guilty.

Mr Leveson said the hearing concerned the mock hangings and the horrific, terrifying violence meted out not to prison officers but to other prisoners detained in Strangeways on remand or awaiting sentence or serving a sentence. He said a hierarchy existed among prisoners at the bottom of which, and subject to abuse and violence, were those charged with sexual offences or of

fences towards or abuse of children. "In the language of prisoners these are called nonces or beasts and that is why they are regarded as a lesser form of life."

"To protect them these men must be kept segregated and one of the early targets after prisoners obtained control was the fourth landing of E wing at the prison, one of the areas where these men were housed." That part of the prison was not targeted so that these men might be liberated and allowed to join in the destruction but they were tormented, terrorised, humiliated and beaten up, he said.

After the riot, one wall of White's cell was found to have splashes of blood extending from the floor to a height of 5ft. White, he said, was beaten and thrown over the railings outside his cell and there was some evidence that he was brought up again and thrown over a second time. Cell doors, debris, paint and urine were also thrown into the well of the block and inmates in E wing heard shouts of "get the keys for the beasts, let's kill them". Through the spy holes in their cell doors prisoners saw inmates being beaten up.

Mr Leveson said there had been rumours of impending trouble circulating in Strangeways before the violence broke out during morning service in the prison chapel on April 1 and there was evidence that at an early stage it was certainly intended that the disturbance and riot should be violent.

Mr Leveson said inmates in E wing heard screams and shouts as the rioters broke down cell doors and attacked other prisoners. In cell four, two terrified prisoners saw a sharpened weapon poked through the spy hole of the



Rooftop protest: Paul Taylor (second from left) reading the prisoners' demands at the height of the riot that rocked Strangeways

door. One man took out a razor blade and threatened to cut his own wrists to drive the attackers away. They put a mattress against the cell door and started a fire in the hope of frightening them away.

The prisoners retreated to the cell window where one collapsed. The neighbouring cell was occupied by a man charged with burglary who had asked for protection because he had been threatened by other prisoners. He said his cell door appeared to have been opened with a key. He was taken out, struck in the face and back by a number of prisoners wielding table legs.

In cell nine, two other prisoners barricaded themselves in after hearing shouts, screams and cries of "over with him" from outside. After some hours the banging started on their own cell door which came away from the frame. Iron bars were used to strike both men across the head, causing injuries which bled profusely.

Six or seven men came into the cell and one of the prisoners was hit with a hammer and his nose was broken.

Prisoners in cell 12 saw through the spy hole in their door four men armed with scaffolding poles smashing the cell block toilets and heard shouts of "beasts, beasts, you are going to be dead. We have already killed two".

After two hours their cell door was broken down and one of the prisoners was repeatedly struck on the head and body with chair legs and thrown over the railings. He grabbed hold of the rails but his hands were hit until he fell. He pretended to be dead, Mr Leveson said, and eventually he was left.

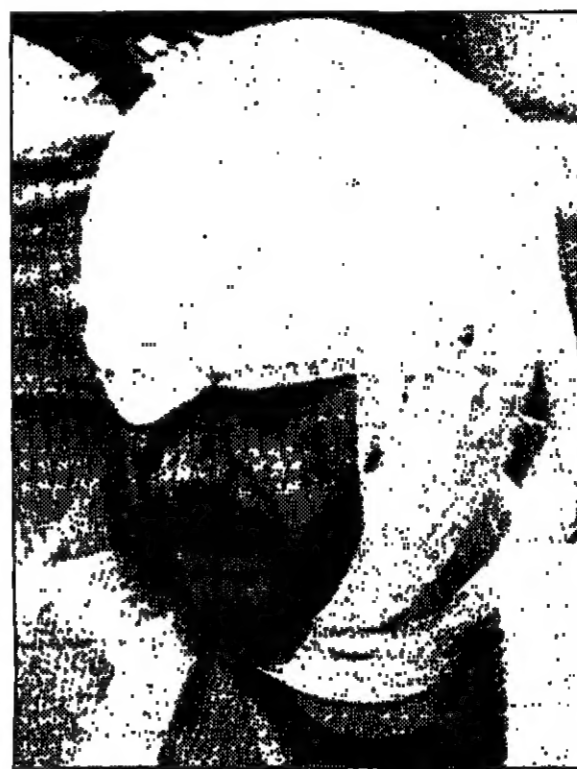
The court heard an audio tape recording of the Sunday morning service in the prison chapel at which the riot began. The Rev Noel Proctor, Strangeways chaplain, told the jury that when Paul Taylor began addressing the congregation and using obscenities he tried to take the

microphone from him and in the struggle gave himself a black eye. Another prisoner, Alan Lord, then ran down the central aisle and he saw Taylor attack a prison officer who was standing next to him and was knocked to the ground.

"I ran forward and knocked one or two of them out of the way and shouted to the lads in the choir to help me pull him out," Mr Proctor said. He said Mr Taylor then grabbed the officer's keys and ran off. The chaplain followed him and was confronted by a young man holding a fire extinguisher above his head. The recording of the service ended abruptly amid sounds of shouting and screaming.

Potential jurors were asked by the judge, Mr Justice Marnell, if they had any close friends or relatives who were serving or had served prison sentences or if they had friends or relatives connected with the prison service.

The hearing continues today.



Victim: Derek White, who died after the attack

## Students live in style rent-free

BY RACHEL KELLY  
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

STUDENTS, nurses and others on low incomes are living free of charge in some of the grandest houses skirting Regent's Park from where tenants of almost 40 years were recently forced to leave because of rent rises.

Many of the former tenants of the Crown Estates were pensioners. Some on short-term leases faced increases of 1,000 per cent.

The Crown Estate said the students occupying Nash houses with views across the park were living free of charge, other than paying their bills, only because they had been employed by the Crown Estates' security company, Ambika Security, to deter potential squatters. "You must differentiate between tenants who have rights with security of tenure through leases," a Crown Estates spokeswoman said. "The people now living in the houses through the security company will be out as soon as we want them out. It's a very temporary measure."

Fifteen properties are empty until the Crown Estates agrees new leases. It emphasised that not all the properties were empty because people could not afford the rents. "Some are empty for other reasons, if, for example, a tenant dies."

Giles Turnbull, of Ambika Security, said: "We only use the most trustworthy sorts of people."

In No 8 St Katharine's Precinct, Peter Welford, a lecturer, and his girl friend are acting as house sitters. They moved in a week ago. Weeks earlier, Rosalie Crutchley, the actress, had moved out of her home of more than 40 years after her rent rose from £1,650 to £23,000.

Phoebe Robino, of Park Village Residents Association, said: "Why couldn't the Crown Estates have come to some sort of arrangement with Rosalie? She was prepared to pay, so they could have got some money."

Ian Fleming, a commercial artist, whose rent for his three-bedroom house in Park Village East is going up from £4,000 to £18,500, said: "It's a bit crazy to have these house sitters when the original residents could have paid a decent rent."

## Injury detector 'cannot be fooled'

BY CRAIG SETON

AN ORTHOPAEDIC physician who has introduced a spinal "lie detector" to Britain told a court yesterday that it was impossible to cheat the device. Hugo Kitchen was giving evidence at the High Court in Birmingham for a woman claiming damages for back injuries she received in a riding accident.

Annette Durrant, aged 34, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, has denied that her back pain was largely psychological. Dr Kitchen said that she had been tested at his clinic in Stratford-upon-Avon on an American-made Isostation B-200, which had proved that she was suffering severe physical disability and was not exaggerating her weakness. It is the first time that evidence from the device has been produced in a British court.

Dr Kitchen said that when a patient was strapped into the machine, restricting movement to the lower part of the back, it measured each

bending movement and monitored flexibility, speed and strength and printed the results on a computer graph. He said: "The patient is tested against resistance of 25 per cent and 50 per cent of their original strength, which was measured while they were unresisted. The machine is impossible to cheat. The patient is not able to judge what resistance they are up against."

He said that Mrs Durrant's tests showed that she was severely physically disabled. The court was told that she walked with the aid of a stick and could not work or ride again after her accident in 1987, in which her horse was involved in a collision with a car.

Municipal General, the insurers for Alexander McDonald, aged 57, an engineer from Coventry, who was the driver of the car, has admitted liability, but has asked the judge to assess damages. The hearing continues today.

## Poll tax challenge halts court cases

BY DOUGLAS BROOM  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

LIVERPOOL city council's attempt to prosecute poll tax defaulters suffered a setback yesterday after a successful challenge to the legality of the tax methods in bringing cases to court.

In a ruling that has serious implications for the pursuit of poll tax defaulters throughout England and Wales, magistrates in the city adjourned 200 summonses. Lesley Mahmood, who stood against Labour in the Walton by-election, argued that the council had no power to summons defaulters on the basis of computerised poll tax records.

The court decided to await the outcome of a similar case in Camden, northwest London, before ruling on the point raised by Mrs Mahmood, who stood as a Militant-backed "Real Labour" candidate in Walton. The Liverpool decision adds urgency to the search by the Home Office for ways to

plug the loophole first exposed last month in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, by Don Pollard, a teacher. Mr Pollard, who had his summons for alleged non-payment dismissed by magistrates, argued that councils could not use computer print-outs from their poll tax departments as evidence of non-payment.

Anti-poll tax groups say that the provisions of the 1968 and 1972 Criminal Evidence Acts, which allowed the use of computer records as evidence, have never been extended to cover magistrates courts. The Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's department conceded yesterday that the relevant sections of the acts had been brought into effect only in the High Court and county courts.

The Home Office said it was for magistrates to decide in each case whether to accept computer records, although ministers were examining the case for a change in the law.

## Branagh leads return to the RSC

BY SIMON TAIT  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH BRANAGH is to return to the Royal Shakespeare Company next season to appear as Hamlet in a production directed by Adrian Noble. Mr Branagh, who left the RSC in 1985, after being directed in *Henry V* by Mr Noble, to form the Renaissance Theatre Company, is no stranger to the role and is recording the play for Radio 3.

*Hamlet* will differ from normal RSC practice by opening at the Barbican, London, in December and transferring to Stratford-upon-Avon later in the season, instead of the other way round.

Mr Branagh leads a return of a number of distinguished former RSC members, including Sir Peter Hall, who is returning for the first time since he left as its artistic director 24 years ago. He will direct two



Branagh and Sir Peter: herald new era for RSC

plays, including a Peter Shaffer one yet to be named. Sir Peter, who formed the RSC as a permanent company in 1960 and left in 1968, later to become artistic director of the National Theatre, will be making his debut at the Swan theatre in Stratford with *All's Well That Ends Well*. The Shaffer play will be produced at the Barbican theatre. The return of Mr Branagh

within three years, Mr Noble, the present artistic director, said.

He said that he had wanted to open a Shakespeare in London rather than Stratford and the timing of *Hamlet* "was perfect". He said the opening of the Stratford season tends to be awkward, with new productions opening from scratch.

John Caird, the former associate director of the company, returns to direct a new Richard Nelson epic drama, *Columbus*, opening at the Barbican theatre in the summer. He will also direct the RSC's first piece of music theatre at the Swan theatre with *The Beggar's Opera*, and *Anthony and Cleopatra* with Richard Johnson and Clare Higgins.

Terry Hands, who Mr Noble succeeded last year, will direct Marlowe's epic *Tamburlaine the Great* at The Swan with Anthony Sher, who returns to the RSC from the National Theatre.

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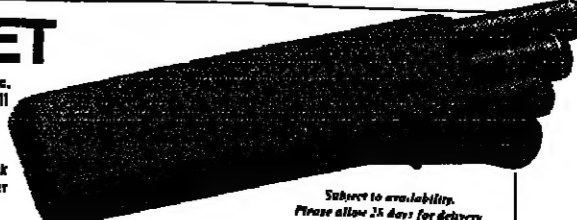


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## MPs attack delay on £4m secret social work report

By KERRY GILL

DEMANDS were made yesterday for a Scottish sheriff to deliver immediately his report on a secret enquiry into social work practice that began three years ago and has cost almost £4 million.

The enquiry was ordered early in 1989 by Malcolm Rifkind, then Scottish secretary, after what appears to have been an irresolvable clash over social work policy in Fife. Mr Rifkind then said that he expected to see the report on his desk within three months.

The public knows little about the details of the enquiry and those who have taken part will say nothing. Some social workers had to receive counselling after suffering distress because of the pressure and strain of overwork.

The final evidence was heard almost a year ago but, so far, Sheriff Brian Kearney has not given his report to Ian Lang, who has succeeded Mr Rifkind. The public may never be told of the findings as it will be up to Mr Lang to decide if it should be published.

MPs, councillors and church leaders have called for an end to what Henry

McLeish, Labour MP for Fife Central, called a "ludicrous situation". He said: "It has gone on far too long. Mr Lang should now tell the sheriff to have the report on his desk immediately, whether it is finished or not." John MacDougall, leader of Fife's Labour administration, said that he suspected the delay was because there were few if any deficiencies found in the operation of the social work department to justify holding the enquiry.

The secret enquiry was ordered to look into allegations that children were at risk because of the region's policy of allowing children, whenever feasible, to be cared for within the community instead of being placed in residential care.

Although few will speak publicly about details that have emerged, one source said: "There has been nothing at all in the evidence that has suggested that the social work department has not acted in a reasonable manner throughout. There have been no cases of abuse or injury of any moment brought forward to the enquiry."

Allan Bowman, the social work director, was asked to give evidence for 21 days, compared to four days' evidence given by Marietta Higgs in the Cleveland enquiry.

Last night a Scottish Office spokesman said that Sheriff Kearney had advised that the report was "quite well advanced" and that it was expected to be completed by the spring.

Warren Foster, aged 23, of Throckley, Tyne and Wear, was jailed for three years and eight months and Jeffrey Nixon, also 23, of Hexham, Northumberland, was jailed for two years and eight months.

Julie Lawson, aged 22, of Cranleigh, Surrey, was sentenced to seven months' jail but allowed to return home after paying off the rest of her sentence.

## Nepal cyclists are released

Two Britons arrested in Nepal for having false visas have been freed. Martin Richmond, of Stroud, Gloucestershire, and Trevor Nott, of Thames Ditton, Surrey, both aged 25, had been held in Kathmandu since December 11, charged with abetting a forger.

On Sunday the Supreme Court reviewed the case and gave the lower court three days to either charge or release the Britons. The men were on a cycling trip when arrested.

## Drugs on beach

A housewife walking her dog on a beach at Sea Palling, Norfolk, found 140 kilos of cannabis worth £750,000 hidden in tins labelled sauerkraut. Police believe that bags containing the tins were landed during the night to be collected in the morning.

## Flying seats

Child seats designed for cars are to be allowed on British passenger aircraft following approval by the Civil Aviation Authority. The seats, which must be in good condition, can be used for children from six months to three years.

## Player charged

Mark Dennis, the Queen's Park Rangers and former Southampton footballer, was given unconditional bail by magistrates at Wimbeldon, southwest London, on a charge of indecently assaulting a 15-year-old girl. The case was adjourned.

## Child trappers

Two girls aged 11 and boy aged 12, recruited by trading standard officers in Cumbria to trap shopkeepers selling cigarettes to children, obtained packets from three of 29 shops visited.

## Diphtheria case

A man aged 20 who has not been named has been diagnosed as having the contagious disease of diphtheria at Southampton general hospital.

## Chinatown fire

Fire destroyed a restaurant, casino and club in Manchester's Chinatown and brought rush-hour traffic to a near standstill.



Smoking time: Tony Benn, the veteran Labour MP, who yesterday became 1992 pipesmoker of the year, tries out his award from the Pipesmokers' Council — a pipe in the form of Big Ben, with a detachable "clock tower" for tamping down the tobacco. The clock stands at 10.10, division time in the Commons

## 5,000 patients a year 'die needlessly'

Thomson Prentice reports on a specialist's concern that many hospitals are saddled with outdated techniques of cancer care

AT LEAST 5,000 patients a year in Britain die unnecessarily from cancer and are part of a lottery in which all sufferers stand only a random chance of getting the best care, a leading specialist said yesterday.

Britain lags behind some Third World countries in the provision of cancer treatment, said Karol Sikora, director of clinical oncology at Hammersmith hospital, west London, who has launched an appeal to raise £5 million for a pioneering new cancer centre.

He said that 250,000 people a year in Britain developed cancer and 170,000 a year died from it. Comparisons with Norway, America and France showed that fewer British patients survived five years after diagnosis. While only 58 per cent of Britons with breast cancer survived for five years, the

figure in Norway was 68 per cent, 72 per cent in America and 73 per cent in France. "Britain's performance is consistently worse than these countries, in many cases alarmingly so. If we could only do as well as Norway, over 5,000 lives would be saved every year. We have now reached the situation where many of our hospitals lag behind even Third World oncology centres, whether in India and Pakistan, Vietnam or Papua New Guinea."

Professor Sikora said that when Hammersmith hospital tried to sell a second-hand piece of diagnostic equipment five years ago, it was rejected by Uganda as obsolete. But it was snapped up by a health authority in south-

east England, where it is still in use. Six out of ten British hospitals providing cancer treatment were using radiotherapy equipment far beyond the ten years for which they were designed, he said. "The tragedy is that people are dying only because the approach we have in the UK is hopelessly fragmented, and many patients cannot get access to what they need."

A cancer patient in Dundee could expect six hours of a consultant's time in the first year after diagnosis. But some London patients would receive only an hour and a half. Britain had fewer cancer specialists per person, and were handling more patients, than most other European

countries, including Poland, he said.

Professor Sikora called for the establishment of 25 to 30 specialist cancer centres, of which the new Hammersmith unit would be the model. Due to open in 1995, it will combine the best medical technology, research, and clinical expertise with some of the therapies of complementary medicine. This holistic approach, building a patient's will to survive, was central to the concept of the unit, he said.

Plans for a network of such centres had been proposed 25 years ago but had failed to win enough local and national support. "Successive governments have failed to tackle cancer care effectively. Despite big health service changes by the government in the last two years, the cancer situation has, if anything, got worse," he said.

## The Budget box holds key to election timing

Politics these next three months will not be for faint hearts. But what will we see the election which, in different ways, will put us all out of our misery?

Forget the idea that the latest ICM opinion poll giving the Tories a 1 per cent lead will encourage John Major to make a dash to the country in February. With the volatility of the electorate, one poll means nothing.

An election before February 15, still just possible after allowing the required 17 days (excluding weekends and bank holidays) from the dissolution of Parliament, would have to take place on the old register. Problems in making computer tapes of the new register available would make an election before mid-March a messy business.

Above all, the government cannot be confident of having the council tax bill completed before March, and no minister would dare to face the electorate without such official confirmation that the poll tax has been finally interred at the crossroads with the stake through its heart.

Nor are senior ministers contemplating fighting an election without having a Budget first. They are agreed that on any of the available options they will now be fighting that election with the economy still "flat". Norman Lamont and his colleagues know that the Budget is the biggest opportunity they have to make an impact on the economic optimism figures which could determine their future.

That rules out the earliest options. At the other end of the scale, the latest date on which the election can be held, within five years of the current Parliament meeting, is July 9.

Suggestions from Tory Central Office that June should not be ruled out are regarded as shadow boxing. Few Tory MPs believe that the prime minister would call the election any later than May 7, the date of the local government elections. The Tories are likely to suffer in those because they will be defending many seats gained in the high-water mark days of 1988. Going any later than May would look like hanging on in desperation.

The debate now in senior Tory ranks is effectively between April 9 and May 7. An April 16 election would mean counting on Good Friday, and an April 19 Easter effectively cuts out the next Thursday too. April 2 remains as an outside earliest option. The pointer will come from the announcement of the Budget date.

If the Chancellor opens his battered box on March 3 it will be a strong indication that the government is aiming for April 9 and could dash for April 2. A March 10 budget would indicate that the April 9 option is being kept open, although Chris Patten, the party chairman, and John MacGregor, the Leader of the Commons, regard that as

**POLITICAL NOTEBOOK**  
By ROBIN OAKLEY

fight for getting through essential Budget business. A March 17 Budget would indicate that May 7 remains the favourite, although Mr Patten discounts the traditional argument that holding a general election on the same day as the local government poll would strain the Liberal Democrats' resources.

Tactics and timing are now concentrated on the budget debate within the government. Both prime minister and Chancellor want tax cuts, but no final decision has been taken on the form these will take.

Some ministers argue that the straight penny off the standard rate would put the spotlight on Labour, which has pledged to repeal any such cut. The latest poll will strengthen their case. Others argue that it would be better to exempt many more people from tax alto-



Lamont: will signal likely poll date

gether, which Labour would find it hard to reverse.

Either way, it has been decided that tax cuts should not be made unless they can be justified as a natural element in the government's economic strategy, not appearing to be an electoral gimmick. And that is where we get back into timing.

Labour strategists believe that the government might get away with tax cuts in a Budget linked firmly to an early election date because the markets would prefer the continuity of a Tory election victory. But tax cuts while the election timing still uncertain, they believe, would worry the markets, put pressure on the pound and intensify the questions marks over Tory ability to handle the economy.

That argues for a tax-cutting Budget on March 10 followed by an election on April 9. But there is a snag. In the first week in April the last round of poll tax bills go out. Labour is convinced they will include significant increases which will focus attention on an issue which has always proved a bonus for them. And that argues that the government would want to cool the question down over another month.

In every election decision so far, Mr Major has taken the cautious option. I think he will go for May 7.

## MPs censure King over shipyard sale

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TEAM of MPs censured Tom King, the defence secretary, yesterday for failing to tell Parliament the full costs of privatising the Belfast shipbuilding company Harland and Wolff.

The Commons public accounts committee discovered that MPs were not told by Mr King, when he was Northern Ireland secretary in 1989, of extra costs to the taxpayer totalling £525 million.

The Tory-dominated committee, which has previously criticised failure to disclose all the costs of privatising the Rover car company and Short Brothers, warned the government to make sure that Parliament is told the full

financial details of any future sales at the earliest opportunity. "Only in this way can the principles of public accountability be properly satisfied," it said.

The management and employee buy-out team, backed by the Norwegian shipowner Fred Olsen, paid £7.6 million for the ailing shipyard in 1989 while the net costs to the taxpayer of the sale totalled £625 million.

Mr King told the Commons on March 22, 1989, the outlines of the sale. The committee said that, although Mr King mentioned the privatisation arrangements, he did not detail all the costs. "When we questioned the department on the full cost implications of the sale we learned that, of the total cost to government of £625 million, some £525 million had not been notified to Parliament." About £422 million of the loss was caused by writing off interest-free loans.

"The magnitude of these loans, which could not be repaid, represents a considerable loss to the taxpayer," the report said. The MPs found it impossible to judge if the sale went through at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayer but said that some changes to the final terms were "in our view costly".

## Equity ban 'costs millions'

By ROBIN YOUNG

EQUITY, the actors' union, was accused in the High Court yesterday of depriving British entertainers of millions of pounds in fees by its ban on the sale of television and radio programmes to South Africa. The actor Marjorie Goring is seeking court orders to stop the union continuing its boycott.

In a statement read to Mr Justice Mervyn Davies, Mr Goring claimed that South African demand for British-made programmes could be gauged from the widespread black-marketing of BBC and ITV productions. John McDonnell, QC, reading Mr Goring's statement, said that the boycott was "directly adverse to members' economic interests" and had been unlawfully imposed.

Equity, which claims that the boycott is in the wider interests of its members, attempted to block the action on the basis that it had been delayed too long, but the judge ruled that he saw no grounds to strike out the case. The hearing, expected to last five days, continues today.



Scale model: Police sergeant Chris Booth carries off his wife Penny, who weighed more than 17 stone in 1990. She has lost seven stone and yesterday won *Slimmer* magazine's Young Slimmer of the Year award at the Savoy hotel, London. Mrs Booth, aged 27, of Chelmsford, Essex, now models clothes for the magazine. She went on a diet when she saw herself in a hospital mirror after her son Samuel was born and reached 9st 7lb in ten months

## Ulster witnesses an explosion in tourism

By EDWARD GORMAN  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AFTER 21 years of the troubles, Northern Ireland is beginning to fulfil its potential as a holiday destination. Recently published figures show that visitors have increased over the past three years, from 1.09 million in 1989 to an estimated 1.17 million last year.

There are signs that people in Britain, the Continent and the Irish Republic are beginning to discount the imagery of violence which has long dominated the projection of Northern Ireland abroad and take advantage of modestly priced holidays in scenery of great beauty. In 1990, almost half the visitors came from the Irish Republic and a quarter, or 66,000, from Britain, an increase of more than 60 per cent on

the previous year. The remainder were mainly from Germany, France and Italy. It is a performance which the government is keen to highlight and encourage.

Richard Needham, the economy minister at Stormont, told the House of Commons on Monday night: "The scenic, recreational and cultural attractions of Northern Ireland compare with the world's best and are at least on a par with those of our neighbours in the south."

Northern Ireland's main problem in the tourism field is not the violence itself but the image it creates of a crisis-ridden, hatred-filled community torn by an endless series of bombs exploding in shops or under cars, and by shootings and riots. None of this is fiction but, for most of the people in Northern Ireland most of the time, life continues in a

peaceful and orderly procession. Most of the violence occurs in localised and concentrated areas of Belfast and Londonderry and, like communal conflicts everywhere, virtually all the participants and victims come from the two communities involved. A great deal of the violence engages only the members of the underworld groups of loyalist and republican paramilitaries, leaving the majority to get on with their lives.

As Anne Moore, of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board pointed out, the hardest part, especially in the case of prospective visitors from Britain, is to get them to come over for a first visit. "Once they do, they enjoy the countryside so much and the people are so friendly and helpful that they want to come back," she said. The province's main attrac-

tions are the scenery on the Antrim coast, around the lakes of Fermanagh, and in Co Down between Strangford Lough and the Mountains of Mourne near the border. Northern Ireland has excellent facilities for sailing and fishing and more than 70 golf courses, including two in the world's top 14. There are also unspoiled seaside resorts and a wide range of accommodation, from caravans through farmhouse bed and breakfasts to expensive hotels. The province is cheap, easily accessible and a good starting point for a tour of the whole of Ireland.

An estimated 8 per cent of tourists visit Northern Ireland specifically to see the scenes of the troubles and include on their itineraries visits to the Falls and Shankill Roads in West Belfast and the Bogside in Londonderry.



King: failed to give full facts to Parliament



## Ski industry may resort to rationing

By Philip Webster

SKIERS may have to buy tickets in advance or book places on the piste to beat congestion at some of Austria's top resorts.

The best start to a season in years, with heavy early winter snowfalls, has given European skiing a much needed renaissance. But it has also refuelled the long-running battle between the ski industry and environmental groups who say that the sport spoils the landscape and upsets the balance of nature in the mountains. Some have even called for skiing to be banned, while school ski trips have been discouraged in Germany.

The ski mountain communities, determined to show that they are as keen as anyone to protect the environment, are putting forward measures to prevent a build-up of turning traffic and people at peak times.

Heinrich Wagner, tourism director of St Anton in the Austrian Tirol, one of Europe's leading resorts, believes that

the number of beds offered to skiers should be limited. Every one staying in a resort would then be guaranteed a ski pass, but the number of day passes for casual skiers or car-borne tourists would be limited. They would have to buy their passes in advance, usually on the telephone by credit card, to be sure of being able to ski at a resort.

Mr Wagner believes that this would dramatically reduce the numbers of skiers at busy periods, cut down on cars and improve the quality of skiing. At St Anton, a skiing Mecca regarded as the place where the sport began as a leisure activity, there are 8,000 beds but at busy holiday times 14,000 people are out on the slopes.

Mr Wagner is sanguine about the green revolution. "I suppose all human activity has damaging side-effects. The only way to avoid it would be for us all to shoot ourselves," he says. But he knows that the ski industry must respond to genuine worries about the environment.

Austrian ski chiefs want better rail links between airports and resorts to discourage people from using cars; already it is possible to get by air and rail from Heathrow via Zurich to the Arlberg ski area in under five hours. Staggered holiday starting dates would avoid big traffic snarl-ups at weekends, the traditional changeover time. Schools could spread their holidays across the season.

In St Anton, and accompanying resorts like St Christoph and Lech, ski instructors now urge their pupils to take their time enjoying the pleasures of the mountains, rather than ski at fast speeds like downhill racers. Austrian resorts are also refusing to use environmentally damaging additives when making artificial snow.

Mr Wagner is irritated by calls to ban skiing. He says: "If skiing was stopped the environment would not suddenly improve. It is the people who live in the mountains who appreciate them most and skiing has been the lifeblood of mountain communities."



Fully fledged: a group of 20-year-old women celebrating Coming of Age day in Tokyo yesterday. A Japanese officially becomes an adult on his or her 20th birthday, and Coming of Age day is a public holiday when ceremonies are held marking the passage to adulthood

## Art-loving to a degree

Helping the public to appreciate modern art will be a vital part of an MA course for exhibition curators at the Royal College of Art. Simon Tait reports on the venture

CURATORS of exhibitions will learn how to help the public to appreciate contemporary art as part of an MA course at the Royal College of Art, the first such course in Britain.

The Arts Council is making its first venture into higher education by committing £350,000 over five years on a course aimed at improving the display and acquisition of contemporary art. It will involve a unique partnership between the college, the Tate Gallery and Middlesex Polytechnic.

The new £1 million visual arts course at the college will be the first in Britain to train curators how to mount exhibitions of modern art, and the first in the world to teach the commissioning of contemporary works. The two-year course, which will have its first intake of ten students in October, was announced jointly by Jocelyn Stevens, rector of the college, Lord Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate Gallery, and David Melville,

director of Middlesex Polytechnic.

The course will be run by the college's faculty of humanities, whose head is Christopher Frayling, also chairman of the Arts Council's visual art panel. "The visual arts scene seriously needs this course," Professor Frayling said. "In the past, training for curators of contemporary art has been rather hit-and-miss. The course, which will be a master of arts post-graduate degree, will offer properly trained experts or the first time, and as such will change the whole world of contemporary art."

The course will include training in at least one other European language, and students will be expected to mount exhibitions in the college's galleries on which they will be adjudicated. College staff will be available for

teaching on the course, which will also involve placements with museums, galleries, magazines and local authorities in Britain and attachments to European institutions.

Nicholas Serota, who helped to found the contemporary arts course at Magasin, Grenoble, said that not enough consideration was given to the public response to arts as opposed to how good pictures looked on a wall. "The key for the Tate has been repatriation with the artists, and we have built up the study of exhibiting contemporary art which the trustees feel we ought to share with other people," he said. "For instance, for far too long small catalogues have been produced which very heavy on lists of exhibits and very little on interpretation. Presentation should have intellectual and theoretical underpinning."

He said that in the late 60s artists began making art which could not be shown without their involvement, and that needed to be taken more account of. The Tate will run seminars for the course, and Middlesex Polytechnic's contribution will be through its course on the interpretation of visual culture.

## Film stars march against triads

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

IN AN unusual protest yesterday, Hong Kong film stars and directors marched on the colony's main police station to complain about triad involvement in the film industry and demand greater police protection from organised crime.

The protest comes after the theft at gunpoint by triad gangsters of two reels of a new film to be released next month. Triad violence, gang warfare, and extortion are the staple of Hong Kong's vibrant film industry, but the gangsters are more than just celluloid characters: for years they have been preying on the richest and best known stars and directors in the colony.

Underworld intimidation and blackmail have been the subject of open talk within the industry for some time. But this is the first time that the stars have braved the gangsters' threats to protest that the police have been unable to protect them.

Jackie Chan, the kung fu star, said the threat to the industry had become very serious. "We can no longer stay silent. We actors and actresses are threatened and should group together to fight it," he described how triads controlled location sites so that no director could film in

Hong Kong without paying vast fees to criminal gangs. He said he had worked on one film where gangs extorted a fee of £3,700, then £370 a day for a location site. At the end of shooting they demanded £2,220 to dismantle the set. "Otherwise, they said, the set would be burnt down," Chan said.

Amy Yip, a popular actress, told a Chinese language newspaper that she had come under pressure to appear nude in a film that was funded by the triads.

Leading stars have been pressed to act in films funded by the gangs for rates far below their market value, producing huge profits for the gangs. "We have very little choice over the films we can act in," Dodo Cheng, an actress, said. Andy Lau, an actor who refused to act in a film as demanded by a triad gang, paid dearly. "It ended with my office being turned upside down by several gangsters," he said. His manager had also been threatened at gunpoint. Many of those taking part in the protest admitted they were afraid to speak out. "Yes, I am scared," said Philip Wong, of the Hong Kong film-makers' guild. "But we have to do this or it will go on."

## Suicide rise alarms China

Peking: With psychiatry no longer regarded as a bourgeois evil, Chinese authorities are responding to an alarming suicide rate by encouraging citizens to seek help before resorting to self-harm.

Suicide is ahead of road accidents and second only to natural causes as a cause of death in China, accounting for 33 per cent of non-natural deaths, according to an American study.

In the past few years, "suicide prevention centres" have opened in many cities to dissuade the distressed from taking their own lives. Chu Chengping, a psychologist in a central Peking clinic, said that since China opened to the outside world over a decade ago, people had begun to react to their work and new lifestyles by feeling under more pressure.

His centre's telephone helpline is constantly engaged and in the capital's commercial district people can talk to counsellors in private cubicles. (AP)

## Imelda urged

Maria: A government commission, challenged by Imelda Marcos, the former first lady, to separate millions of dollars it says she keeps in Swiss banks. Mrs Marcos has said she will run for president to save the Philippines from poverty. She and her late husband Ferdinand have been accused of looting the country of up to five billion dollars. (Reuters)

## Bail granted

Dhaka: Bangladesh's high court granted bail to the wife of Hossain Mohammad Ershad, the former president. It rejected charges that Begum Roushan Ershad was corrupt, accumulated wealth and misused government funds.

## Rape dispute

Hong Kong: Gillian Marcolyn, a Hong Kong Family Planning Association psychologist and rape victim counsellor, has resigned in disgust at "destructive" remarks made last week by Dr Margaret Kwan, executive director of the association. Dr Kwan told businesswomen that women in miniskirts invite rape. (Reuters)

## Ship reward

Melbourne: The Victorian government has offered a A\$250,000 (£104,000) reward for the discovery of a ship, possibly dating back to 1552, sighted in shifting sands. The ship could be part of a Portuguese expedition and its discovery could rewrite Australian history. Officially, Captain Cook discovered Australia in 1770. (Reuters)

## Ape jape

Tokyo: Jiro, a six-year-old monkey famous for television adverts in Japan, has begun imitating the collapse of President Bush at a state dinner in Tokyo last week. When his trainer calls "Bush-san, Bush-san", Jiro closes his eyes and keels over in a convincing swoon. Taro Morasaka, the trainer, is hoping for a tour of the United States. (AP)

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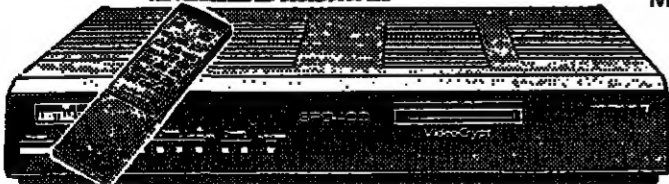
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## Rock and roller turns to God

By Tim Jones

JACK Good, the man who scandalised post-war middle-class Britain by introducing rock and roll to the television screen, is to become a hermit in a Carmelite monastery in west Texas. "I am finished as a rocker. I want to make a determined effort to find God," he said yesterday.

Almos' overnight, Good steered a generation of children away from the innocent lyrics of "The Laughing Policeman" and "Davy Crockett (King of the Wild Frontier)" and subjected them to young men with gyrating hips who sang of young love, tight jeans and big fast cars.

As Teddy Boys danced in cinemas to *Rock Around the Clock*, MPs questioned whether Mr Good was leading us all into damnation by producing and creating Six-



Good: "I want to make an effort to find God"

Five Special, the BBC's Saturday night show which ensured that all parents knew for half an hour where their children were.

The BBC was initially horrified by the show but kept it on when its popularity became obvious. The friction was,

however, sufficient for Mr Good to change sides and produce his own show, *Oh Boy!*

Before leaving Britain almost 30 years ago, Mr Good converted to Catholicism and has spent much of his time painting crucifixion scenes at his home in New Mexico.

He disclosed his plans to retreat from the show-business world on LBC radio's *Parkinson* programme. "Now I am 60 I am not unhappy or disillusioned with the world, I just want to make a determined effort to find God," he said. In my hermitage I shall have a little cell and attend chapel for regular devotions.

Before he stops living for ever, Good will be in London to see *Good Rockin' Tonight*, the musical written by him which opens next week at the Strand theatre in London.

## Our man in Baghdad calls it a day

The former British ambassador to Iraq is retiring from the diplomatic service, the Foreign Office announced yesterday. Sir Harold "Hooky" Walker, aged 59, has been an adviser at the Foreign Office in London since the Gulf war because Iraq has broken off diplomatic relations with Britain. During his time in Baghdad, Mr Walker dealt with the hostage-taking and missions by Edward Heath and others to free trapped Britons. He was rewarded with a knighthood. He intends, among other activities, to work as a consultant to the relief organisation Care.

Rome this week. Several square metres of the ceiling in the foyer of the Rome opera house and a chandelier came crashing down during the premiere of Rossini's 1816 masterpiece, a spokesman said. No one was seriously hurt and a second performance was planned to go ahead as scheduled last night.

Kitty Kelly, the author of controversial biographies of Frank Sinatra, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Nancy Reagan, has trained her sights on the British royal family, the *New York Times* has reported. The newspaper said that Warner Books was expected to announce that Kelly had been signed to write a book on the House of Windsor.

Warner officials would not say whether the British royal family was the subject of the book, nor how much the author would be paid.

The Princess of Wales will visit leprosy victims in Calcutta next month. She will spend time with patients at the Leprosy Mission Hospital during a five-day official tour of India with the Prince of Wales which will take them to Delhi, Jaipur and Hyderabad.

Sonny Bono, the former singer, says that reporters covering his U.S. Senate campaign have no business asking if he used drugs during his Hollywood years. But he added: "I'm absolutely anti-drug now,

and I was anti-drug then." The 56-year-old Palm Springs mayor, who used to be married to the singer Cher, was asked if that meant he had never experimented with drugs. He replied: "It's none of your business."

A Chilean artist has painted for 192 hours non-stop, earning a place in the Guinness book of world records. "I want to say many things but I cannot," Eduardo Henríquez, aged 25, said after painting for eight days and nights at a Santiago shopping centre. During that time he finished nine works, mostly landscapes. A nurse who monitored his condition said he was "in bad shape psychologically".

The Gulf war, one year on: how the fortunes and outlook of players and observers have been reshaped

# Wonderland fosters cult of strongman

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

IRAQ, a year after the bombs began to fall on Baghdad, is a nightmarish society in which the same corrupt, minority clique which ordered the invasion of Kuwait holds sway, bolstered by a reconstructed propaganda machine and a rejuvenated internal security network more ruthless than any in the Arab world.

President Saddam Hussein, his face pudgy again and the arrogant prewar swagger back, has shuffled his regime to protect his back by moving trusted family members into a more close-knit circle. At a rare appearance recently he was flanked by 20 bodyguards. He is reluctant to use the telephone lest American eavesdroppers discover his whereabouts and send a missile to destroy him.

Senior East European and Russian diplomats in Baghdad are sceptical of recent Washington claims that the regime is growing more brittle, with the continuing trade embargo increasing chances of a coup. They claim that Saddam has a tight grip on Baghdad and its environs, while near-savagery reigns in the Shia Muslim south and the Kurdish north.

Crime rates have soared and Saddam's eldest son, Uday, has demanded the introduction of Islamic punishments including public beheading to counter it. Women, under 45 unaccompanied by a close male relative have been barred from leaving the country in an effort to deter prostitution.

The car bomb which exploded outside a Baghdad hotel last month is regarded as a sign of growing, but



Saddam: has a tight grip on Baghdad

disorganised, opposition. The opposition groups who met in Damascus this month gave little impression of coherence, and in Baghdad the postwar period of glasnost has been ended brutally.

"The secret policemen are back everywhere," a Western visitor was told last week by a frightened resident who said that criticism of the regime, commonplace after the war, had been silenced. Little public mention is made of Kuwait and almost nightly, a large part of Iraq's main television news is taken up with reports on unemployment, homelessness, poverty and crime in America. "As we celebrate with our heads held high, the first anniversary of the tyrannical 30-state aggression against us, Bush was touring Asian countries looking for a solution to the economic crisis the United States is suffering from," gloated *al-Thawra*, the Baath party daily. Iraqi

officials claim that Saddam will outlast President Bush as a leader, an assertion not treated with the scorn it would have been a year ago.

The few tame television crews granted visas to cover the anniversary under strictly controlled conditions have been discouraged from reporting the gunfire heard nightly in Baghdad. Instead, they have been encouraged to film babies with marish limbs and distended bellies dying from lack of food and medicine which the regime shamelessly tries to portray as the result of United Nations sanctions.

The ministry of information minders invariably fail to point out that had Saddam agreed to export oil as permitted by a UN resolution, scarce food and medicine could have been supplied. Instead, UN terms dictating how the revenue was to be used were dismissed as "old colonialism at its ugliest".

Infant mortality has trebled and 30 per cent of children are estimated to be undernourished. Yet to boost the anti-sanctions campaign, government agents have been threatening people with arrest if they accept foreign food assistance.

Iraq has become an Alice in Wonderland state where official accounts belie the facts and the cult of personality around Saddam dominates. Thousands of 10ft portraits of him have been repaired and those people suspected of joining in the failed March uprisings have been tortured and executed. Some Shia Muslims were killed by being ignited after being forced to drink petrol while others were made to lick their blood off prison walls.

Baghdad watchers believe that Saddam's survival depends on whether sanctions or the resilient Iraqi economy collapse first. "At present, the best hope of getting rid of him is for his own Sunni Muslim elite to turn against him in disillusion or out of discomfit," said a Western official.

Saddam's position has been strengthened by the unexpected speed of postwar reconstruction and by his brinkmanship with the outside world over Iraq's nuclear programme which has boosted his image as a leader able to withstand attack by the largest force ever mounted against an Arab country.



Words of war: Gulf players courting literary fame include, from top, left to right, General Norman Schwarzkopf, General Colin Powell, Brigadier Patrick Cordingley, Sir Peter de la Billière, Stuart Lockwood and John Simpson. BBC foreign editor

## Men of letters troop out of military ranks

The commanders who made history have now turned to writing it. Jamie Dettmer reports on the emergence of a top-brass literati

JOHN Wayne would have been proud to end one of his films with the Hollywood flourish managed by General "Stormin'" Norman Schwarzkopf as he concluded his final public appearance in America on returning from the Gulf war. As the television cameras rolled, the general turned to his son saying, "Let's go fishing, Christian."

"The bear", as General Schwarzkopf is nicknamed, then walked off proclaiming that all he wanted to do was fish, walk the dog and spend time with his children. The rest, as they say, is history. In the general's case it is also writing history. On his retirement from the army last summer after 35 years' service, General Schwarzkopf signed a \$5 million (£2.7 million) deal with Bantam Books for an autobiography.

A national idol on a par with the second world war heroes Dwight Eisenhower and Douglas MacArthur, General Schwarzkopf was immediately being tipped as a future American president. However, he has shown little inclination for a political career, but as some commentators have pointed out, Eisenhower waited seven years after leaving the army before running for the presidency.

General Schwarzkopf is currently working on his book and has joined the profitable American lecture circuit, making speeches at \$50,000 a time on the lessons of war and the can-do attitude. Clearly, he sometimes finds civilian life a problem.

Last autumn he was quoted as saying: "Seven months ago, I could give a single command and 541,000 people would immediately obey it. Today, I can't get a plumber to come to my house." But whether the trials and tribulations of civvy street will propel him to pursue power in the White House remains to be seen.

Other leading military figures in the war have turned to the publishing world. Sir Peter de la Billière, the commander of British forces in the Gulf who was promoted from lieutenant-general to full general in the autumn, is

considering a book contract. A sum of at least £100,000 is being talked about.

Sir Peter, who retires from the army in June, is now a special adviser on Middle East affairs to Tom King, the defence secretary. The general's name has been the latest to be raised in Whitehall discussions about who should succeed Sir David Wilson in Hong Kong as the last governor in the run-up to the colony being handed over to China. Sir David is due to retire at the same time as Sir Peter leaves the army.

Brigadier Patrick Cordingley, who commanded the 7th Armoured Brigade, nicknamed the Desert Rats, in the Gulf and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his courageous leadership, is now head of the Combined Armed Services Training Centre. Soon after returning from the conflict he said: "I am much richer for the experience and whatever else happens to me, I shall never lose the feeling of having completed a job in the best possible way."

General Colin Powell is another American Gulf celebrity being tipped to enter politics. Last May, he was re-appointed for a second year term as chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, quelling speculation that he might replace Dan Quayle as President Bush's running-mate in the 1992 elections. There has also been speculation that he might in the future run for the Democrats.

Stuart Lockwood, the little boy who was held with his family by the Iraqis after the invasion of Kuwait and seen worldwide on television being patted on the head by President Saddam Hussein, became a celebrity for a while. Last year in London, he helped to launch an exercise programme for children. Ironically, the programme was designed to encourage children to watch less television. His mother published a book in the summer entitled *The Diary of a Human Shield* which describes what the family went through while being held hostage in Baghdad.

## Victory rings hollow for US electorate

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

In Kansas this week President Bush rebuked the "prophets of doom" and "frantic politicians" who portrayed America as a nation in decline. The Gulf war had established America as the undisputed leader of the world, he said. "Go anywhere in the world and you will see the respect in which we are held."

The frantic politician now is Mr Bush, whose popularity has plummeted to the lowest level of his presidency. Desperate to stop the haemorrhage, he is seizing every opportunity to evoke the Gulf war victory. But a year to the day after he ordered the start of the air offensive, it is far from clear that his finest moment remains such an electorally potent card.

Had Mr Bush not challenged Saddam's aggression Iraq could by now be a nuclear power. Kuwait would still be occupied and Saudi Arabia imperilled. World oil prices would have soared to levels dictated by Iraq.

But it is the president's misfortune that voters pay more heed to what is most immediately apparent, namely that the Iraqi dictator remains defiantly in power, starving the Kurds and Shia Muslims, and that military prowess abroad does not solve economic distress at home.

The yellow ribbons and victory parades are distant memories. Last spring's brief spell of national euphoria and self-confidence was quickly subsumed by the recessionary gloom Mr Bush hoped the war would banish.

Polls show 82 per cent of Americans believe that Mr Bush did not finish the job. The 80 per cent who thought last March that the war was worth fighting has shrunk to less than 60 per cent. Those happy with the way things are going in America have slumped from a postwar high of 66 per cent to a ten-year low of 24 per cent.

In the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, neither Tom Harkin of Iowa nor Bob Kerrey of Nebraska are yet suffering from their Senate votes against the war. Pat Buchanan, one of the war's most outspoken critics, is closing on Mr Bush



Bush: forlorn search for anti-Saddam coup

in New Hampshire's Republican primary. Had he run, Mario Cuomo said that his riposte to presidential triumphalism would have been to "show pictures of Saddam Hussein reviewing his troops and say 'Congratulations, George'".

Media commentary surrounding the first anniversary has been less than gushing. The latest *Newsweek* argues that Mr Bush let Saddam off the hook by ending the war prematurely.

George Will, in *The Washington Post*, recalled with derision that "a largely rented coalition of allies smashed a nation with the GNP of Kentucky". *US News and World Report* claims that Saddam still has the ingredients for a nuclear bomb.

● **Missile charge.** President Bush has accused Iraq of concealing large numbers of ballistic missiles and continuing to obstruct international searches for its weapons of mass destruction.

In a report to Congress, he said that 62 ballistic missiles, 18 launch pads, 33 missile warheads and 127 missile storage racks had been destroyed, but Iraq was co-operating only with inspections of sites it had already declared.

"Iraq continues to possess large numbers of undeclared ballistic missiles," he said. Iraq might still be building its own short-range Scud missiles. Further investigation of Iraq's nuclear weapons programmes was necessary, he added.

## Conflict forced West to rethink alliance strategy

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

OPERATION Desert Storm, launched shortly before midnight on the night of January 16-17 a year ago, came at a significant time for Nato. Deprived of a monolithic enemy in the shape of the Soviet Union and its old Warsaw Pact allies, the unexpected Iraqi aggression proved that the Western alliance had to face up to new challenges from any direction.

The Gulf coalition force was UN-sponsored, but for Nato the principal lesson was that future strategy would have to be based on the threat to Western interests posed by well-armed, unpredictable regimes such as Iraq. Alliance doctrine based solely on the maintenance of peace in Europe would no longer be credible.

The concept of "out-of-area" has become outdated. As the civil war in Yugoslavia demonstrated, out-of-area conflicts can be uncomfortably close to home and the alliance cannot ignore the consequences of conflicts arising outside the traditional Nato boundaries. The success of Operation Desert Storm was due, in part, to the familiarity which existed between America, Britain and other Nato members. The coalition developed into an extraordinary hybrid, but the core of the fighting force was Nato.

The ending of the Cold War had already forced Western governments to begin converting their armed forces into flexible, rapidly deployable units. The Gulf war confirmed that this was the right approach but it also served as a warning that out-of-area intervention may require the dispatching of all Cold War armoured. For Iraq was defeated, among other things, by 60-tonne tanks, multiple-launch rocket systems, and B52 bombers.

Lessons from the battlefield were crucial. Standard operating procedures practised on



the plains of Germany proved invaluable in Kuwait and Iraq; command and control arrangements, fine-tuned to accommodate Western and Muslim forces, worked effectively; and advanced technological weapon systems, such as the F117A stealth fighter and the Tomahawk cruise missile, proved themselves beyond expectation.

In many ways, however, the war was unique. The coalition had the use of some of the most modern ports and airfields in the world, the troops had five months to prepare for battle, and during the work-up period the Iraqis remained in static defensive

positions without offering any challenge.

The war dramatically demonstrated the effectiveness of air power. As Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billière, commander of the British forces, said: "It put paid to the old military doctrine which states that a three-to-one superiority in numbers of ground troops is required to launch a successful attack against a well-defended enemy."

The success of the Patriot missile against the Iraqi ballistic Scuds provided one of the biggest lessons. Anti-ballistic missile systems will become the most sought-after weapons in the West, giving reason enough for developing or purchasing appropriate defences.

A lasting impression was the size of the Iraqi military machine. Saddam had been engaged in the biggest arms build-up in the Middle East for years, helped by American and European companies, yet the West turned a blind eye. If there is to be greater stability in the region, arms control and disarmament are essential.

## Amman and Palestinians pay price of isolation

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

KING HUSAIN



Husain: has shaved off his Islamic-style beard

Out of political and economic necessity, the forest of posters showing Saddam side by side with the Jordanian monarch have been removed from walls and windows, as have those of the now exchanging an AK47 rifle. The emphasis for Jordan now is to try to mend the many broken fences in the Arab world. King Hussein, who feels his position was misunderstood, has shaved off the Islamic-style beard he sported during

the conflict and again become the cornerstone of American policy in the Middle East notably the peace talks which began in Madrid last October.

The economic woes which have been caused by the cut in Saudi aid of \$300 million (£166 million) a year have been magnified by the plight of the 300,000 Palestinians forced out of Kuwait who have now settled in Jordan, many without the prospect of work or housing. United Nations studies estimate that the tiny desert kingdom will need \$3.1 billion (£1.7 billion) in the next three years to absorb them.

King Hussein wants the fate of the 300,000 raised during the third round of the Middle East peace process, the multi-lateral talks attended by the foreign ministers of 15 nations that are due to open in Moscow on January 28. Kuwait has shown no willingness to have the Palestinians back and is threatening to expel more.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation was also crippled financially by the cut in funds from former backers in the Gulf. Yasser Arafat, its chairman, whose standing among Palestinians has slumped, was forced to accept largely Israeli-dictated terms for the peace talks which exploded the presence of the organisation, avoided the question of Jerusalem, and raised the prospect of limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip which was rejected by the PLO 11 years ago.

In the squalid Baqaa camp near Amman where more than 100,000 of the self-styled "forgotten Palestinians" live, portraits of the Iraqi president still dominate. "Saddam is our hero as much today because he hurt Israel," one teenager said. "Maybe in ten years or less, another Saddam will come, this time with nuclear bombs on his Scuds."

## Awaiting Armageddon at the al-Rashid

WE HAD watched a defiant demonstration by Iraqi schoolchildren vowing to sacrifice their lives for the glory of the Baath movement and heard the puppet parliament unanimously support Saddam's decision to defeat the allies.

Iraqi officials spoke glibly about the Iraqi army's ability to resist attack. But as the crowded highways out of the city showed, Iraqis were voting with their feet.

For those of us who remained behind there were many disturbing sights

Richard Beeston recalls the night a year ago when, in Baghdad, he witnessed the start of the allied bombing campaign

that week, beginning with the departure of the United Nations secretary-general, Pérez de Cuellar, after a fruitless last mediation attempt. Western diplomatic compounds were ominously deserted and there was a scramble by colleagues for seats on the last flight out of Baghdad.

At the al-Rashid hotel, the journalists' home for the duration of the war, the expectations of covering possibly the most important event of our careers was largely overshadowed by increasingly dire predictions. The talk was not of Pulitzer prizes but the effects of B52 carpet bombing and the destruction caused by a 2,000-lb pen-

etration bomb dropped into a shelter. There was also the uncomfortable thought of becoming one of Saddam's "special guests". However, the build-up to Armageddon was such that when the attack happened, the event was mildly disappointing. Allied bombs hit specific targets with almost pinpoint accuracy, most correspondents spent the night trapped in an underground shelter unable to report home, and those who had sought comfort in the bottle slept blissfully through the entire ordeal.

## Belgrade claims Yugoslavia still exists as Community recognises independence of northern rebel regions

## EC decision bolsters German prestige

By MICHAEL BINYON AND TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

YESTERDAY'S recognition of Croatia and Slovenia by all 12 European Community members is a German victory of considerable long-term significance, both for the EC and for German influence in Eastern Europe.

The decision comes despite strong reservations in some countries, especially Britain and France, and against the earlier advice of the United Nations and Lord Carrington, the chairman of the EC peace conference. Bonn, however, insists that the move has not led to the predicted upsurge in fighting, and that the Community now believes that enough changes have occurred since the German decision to enable them to support recognition.

The German decision last month put the biggest strain on European political co-operation for years, and threatened to strangle at birth the Maastricht treaty provisions for a common EC foreign policy. At a heated meeting on December 16, EC foreign ministers, realising that Bonn was ready to go it alone, decided therefore to follow suit under certain conditions.

Under pressure from its partners, Bonn agreed to postpone implementation of its decision for a month. The Community then stepped up efforts to establish a durable ceasefire and speed up the involvement of the United Nations, as well as specifying to Croatia and Slovenia the criteria for recognition and pushing for compliance.

A key instrument was the arbitration panel set up in August to help the peace conference and look at the constitutional issues posed by the

Milosevic: EC cannot abolish Yugoslavia

dissolution of Yugoslavia. It comprised five judges, chaired by Robert Badinter of France, who were asked by foreign ministers last month to report on the extent to which the two republics were ready to guarantee the rights of minorities and implement human rights agreements.

Mr Badinter is the high-profile chairman of France's constitutional court, a friend of President Mitterrand and a man who played a key part

in the abolition of the guillotine 11 years ago. His first public post was as justice minister in Mitterrand's first government in 1981. The other panel members are a Spaniard, a Belgian, a German and an Italian. Their investigation ended with a meeting in Paris last weekend where they drew up their findings, reported to EC foreign ministers on Tuesday.

None ever visited Yugoslavia, to the annoyance of the Serbian leadership. "No one can abolish Yugoslavia from outside," Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, said after last week's session of the peace conference in Brussels. The panel, however, rejected criticism that it was too academic. "We are asked this question all the time: why haven't you been to Yugoslavia? It is stupid. We are not here to count bodies; we are here to examine laws," a spokesman said.

The panel met briefly in The Hague, the peace conference's first home, but for the most part the five judges have worked privately, gathering from time to time in Paris. Mr Badinter's only meeting with EC foreign ministers was in Brussels on December 16.

The arbitration team's work is not over. Mr Badinter has only given Slovenia a clean bill of health; minority rights questions still hang over Croatia's move to nationhood, and the report attaches conditions to Bosnia-Herzegovina's and Macedonia's independence hopes that have yet to be realised.

Britain referred specifically to these conditions in a statement yesterday. "We expect swift action by the government of Croatia to remedy the deficiencies pointed up in Mr Badinter's report," the Foreign Office said. It noted that although Bosnia and Macedonia had made "good cases for recognition", Britain wished to defer the issue for further consideration.

The main obstacle to Macedonia's acceptance by the EC is Greece, which objects to the use of the name, historically associated with Greece and also the name of a northern Greek province. Athens fears an independent Macedonia would make territorial claims on Greece.

Talks between the two broke down this month. Britain and several other EC members fear that recognition of Bosnia would provoke the Serbian minority into calling for unity with Serbia, which might provoke clashes with the Muslims and Croats.

New states, page 1  
Anne McElvoy, page 14  
Diary, page 14  
Leading article, page 15



Economy drive: a man filling the boot of his car with cobs of corn from an untended field outside the Croatian town of Vinkovci yesterday. The Yugoslav war has caused havoc for agriculture and food supplies in the rebel republic

## Croats jump psychological hurdle to win nationhood

Anne McElvoy in Zagreb savours the Croatian mood, but says that high expectations of outside help may hinder the reconstruction of a shattered land

WITH the achievement of EC recognition, Croatia yesterday reached the goal of its more than eight centuries of existence.

President Tudjman, who led his country into war with the Serb-led federal army to gain autonomy from Yugoslavia, has also achieved his consuming ambition of entering the annals of the country's history as the father of independence.

But the circumstances of recognition, after a destructive war costing 7,000 lives, an estimated \$18.7 billion (£10.3 billion) and a third of its territory, lends Croatia's diplomatic victory over Serbia a pyrrhic edge. The republic of 4.3 million people has a shattered economy, destroyed towns and 650,000 refugees from captured areas awaiting resettlement.

EC recognition is applied to Croatia's borders as finalised after the war by Marshal Tito. But this does not correspond with what the country actually controls after the army's destructive advance to within 35 miles of Zagreb.

Even if a United Nations peacekeeping force takes the army's place, the newly independent Croatia as it will appear on the map and Croatia as it exists for the purpose of administration are two different things.

Recognition from Western Europe is nevertheless of the utmost psychological importance for a nation which has

for the past century scraped at the door of mainstream European culture, orienting itself towards Germany, Italy and Austria. Zvonimir Separovic, Croatia's foreign minister, said yesterday: "There are three groups of countries: those such as Germany, Austria and Italy which are on our side; those who oppose us, such as China and the non-



aligned countries; and the third group of those countries who are not interested in what is happening here."

The practical benefits of recognition remain unclear. Croatia has made no secret of the fact that it expects recognition to open the door to arms and funding and that it believes that Germany, its prime defender in the EC, will provide for its reconstruction. But it would not be the first time that Croatia had deceived itself with high expectations and an exaggerated notion of the degree of commitment in the West. As the fighting escalated in the autumn, there was incomprehending disbelief at the real-

isation that Europe would not rush to its aid.

President Tudjman now appears to have equally high expectations of the effect of UN peacekeepers whose presence, he said this week, would help the country regain its lost territory otherwise the Croatian people would "fight to liberate the whole of their land." The government is characterised by a combination of inward-looking nationalism and a desire to join the Western democratic camp and share in its prosperity. It is a combination which has led to insensitivities such as the adoption of the chequerboard flag, widely associated with the wartime Ustaša regime.

Early mistakes and subsequent stubbornness gave rise to doubts about Croatia's commitments to minority rights for its 12 per cent Serb population. There was initial reluctance to guarantee Serb rights and heavy handed tactics in ethnically sensitive areas such as the disastrous attempt last summer by Croatian police to take over the police station in Borovo Selo leading to the first federal army intervention.

Independent Croatia will also have to learn to cope with the legacy of its last attempts at independence: the disastrous interlude of Ante Pavelic's Nazi-backed state from 1941-45. President Tudjman must steer a course between building a stable democracy and satisfying the deep seated desire to regain lost land while also avoiding being drawn into the ethnic conflict simmering in neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The underlying economic statistics are quite encouraging, however. Even after taking over its share of the Yugoslav debt — \$2.4 billion out of \$16 billion — its debt-to-exports ratio compares favourably to Czechoslovakia's, Hungary's and Poland's. Slovenia's hard currency exports amount to about \$4 billion a year.

The population of two million is highly educated, communications are "good" and there are no minority problems to upset the political balance. Moreover, unlike Croatia, Slovenia is already functioning as an independent state: it has issued passports, has printed its own currency and is in control of its borders.

The problem is how to reform its economic system while at the same time scrambling for new export markets. Over 45 per cent of its workforce is employed in industry and mining — compared with 36 per cent in Germany — and many state-run factories, although relatively efficient in Yugoslav terms, are lagging well behind by world competitive standards.

Arguments over how to solve the problem have shattered the Demos coalition government that essentially was an anti-communist alliance like Poland's Solidarity. The government is now dominated by the Christian Democrats and Smallholders.

The Slovenes say that they lost \$15 million (£8.3 million) a month as a result of Western sanctions against Yugoslavia and that the war is still crippling its economy. Adria Airlines, the national carrier, has been unable to function because the Yugoslav army controls the airspace.

The underlying economic

## Republic poised to exploit riches

Despite Slovenia's optimism, the region on the "sunny side of the Alps" may not be wealthy enough to flourish outside the federation, Roger Boyes writes

SLOVENIA, the mountain republic that calls itself the "sunny side of the Alps" was the richest region in what used to be Yugoslavia. But whether it is wealthy or versatile enough to flourish outside the Yugoslav federation is a matter of doubt.

The sloping roofs and white painted houses, the clean, orderly streets, the cafe houses of Ljubljana, the frequent steeples of Roman Catholic churches and the bright folk costumes worn by villagers on Sundays are all echoes of the Habsburg past, and an indication that the future is seen in terms of close economic ties with Austria.

Milan Kucan, the Slovene president, said in his new year address that Slovenia would keep all of its frontiers open, that is, it will also try to maintain a relationship with what is left of Yugoslavia. But the most any Slovene politician will settle for is a "free trade zone" in the Yugoslav territory and bilateral economic agreements with Croatia, Macedonia and other republics.

The Slovenes say that they lost \$15 million (£8.3 million) a month as a result of Western sanctions against Yugoslavia and that the war is still crippling its economy. Adria Airlines, the national carrier, has been unable to function because the Yugoslav army controls the airspace.

The underlying economic

## Serbs attack Europe policy

FROM TIM JEDDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

BELGRADE reacted angrily yesterday as the European Community and other countries recognised the independence of Croatia and Slovenia.

A statement issued by the Serbian government insisted that Yugoslavia still existed, and Vladislav Jovanovic, the Serbian foreign minister, accused the EC of encouraging the break-up of the country. Mr Jovanovic said that, by setting such a "serious precedent", the EC risked reaping a whirlwind. "The consequences could be fatal," he said. "The effects of this will be seen in other multinational states."

Serbian leaders reacted with joy to the fact that the EC had refrained from recognising the ethnically-mixed republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, but cautious muslim and Croatian leaders said they still expected full recognition "very soon".

The situation in the southern republic of Macedonia remained unclear as several states declared their intent to recognise it but none actually did so. "The republic of Serbia states that, in 73 years of its history, Yugoslavia has changed its name, its territory and its political and economic set-up," read the statement issued in Belgrade. But the country had nevertheless always remained recognised internationally as the common state of the nations living in it.

The Serb-dominated federal presidency which used to gather representatives from all six republics is set to meet tomorrow to consider its position. Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, gave no reaction yesterday to developments and it is thought he may reserve judgement until after consulting Constantine Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, in Athens today. Greece has been Serbia's only ally and advocate within the EC.

The Serb-dominated remains of the federal government of Yugoslavia also declared that they still existed. Milivoje Markovic, the deputy foreign minister, said: "We have reason to be offended by the arrogant behaviour of European institutions and their representatives, but this still does not give us the right to slam the door on Europe and to condemn ourselves to being a European province." The Yugoslav federal government no longer has a prime minister or foreign minister. It has also been without a president since the resignation of Stipe Mesic, a Croat, last October.

If Yugoslavia still exists, its borders are uncertain. The EC countries have recognised Croatia's existing borders, but Zagreb does not control one third of the republic's territory.

## Hecklers mar visit by Yeltsin

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE disgruntled people of St Petersburg turned out yesterday to air their complaints when Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, arrived in their city on the last leg of a five-region tour. Taxi drivers and ambulancemen were reported to have staged token strikes to protest against high food prices and poor supplies.

On his first stop, the city's huge port, he was met with banners saying, "Boris, you are wrong again" — a reference to the accusation coined by his old adversary, Yegor Ligachev. The Ligachev refer-

ence, however, also showed the origin of the complaints: the remains of the old — but still just functioning — power structure.

Later in the day, Mr Yeltsin was reapproached by crowds as he visited shops and a market. A theme of the Russian president's visit was his condemnation of unjustified price increases following the January 2 liberalisation. "Privatisation and free prices," he said, "have led to uncontrollable consequences and sometimes to serious abuse, committed intentionally, to

provoke people." One woman who objected, asked: "But what are we going to eat?" Mr Yeltsin replied sardonically: "You can slice me up, but that won't last you for long."

From Kiev came reports that President Kravchuk of Ukraine was planning a far-reaching reshuffle that could cost the head of the republic's bank, among others, his job. Mr Kravchuk is reportedly worried about the impact on living standards after the introduction of coupons to replace roubles. One of the possible candidates for pro-

motion, Volodymyr Grinev, a deputy chairman of the republic's parliament, told reporters yesterday that many in the present government were incapable of radical reform, but "there are some people who could do the job."

An unconfirmed report in Moscow said that the heads of all 11 Commonwealth of Independent States would meet today in the Russian capital. Originally, only the leaders of the four nuclear republics had been expected for a meeting on security.

● New haven: Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the ousted Georgian president, left the Armenian town of Idzhevan yesterday, apparently for a haven elsewhere in the Caucasus, an Armenian interior ministry spokesman said. Mr Gamsakhurdia had been in Idzhevan for nine days, since fleeing Georgia after months of unrest.

The spokesman said he had apparently left for the town of Dzokhar Dudayev, a longtime ally and separatist who has been backed by Mr Gamsakhurdia in a bid for independence from Russia.

Mr Dudayev is seeking independence for the Chechen part of the strife-torn Chechno-Ingushetia autonomous region on the north-western shore of the Caspian Sea, the Ingush half of which wishes to remain part of Russian territory. (Reuters)



Follow that cab: St Petersburg taxi drivers protesting yesterday against steep fare rises

## Elgin marbles set to stay in London

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission yesterday unveiled its long-awaited proposals on the restitution of stolen treasures in the EC, and the news for the British Museum is good. It looks as if the Elgin marbles will go back to Greece only if Britain volunteers to send them.

The proposals look certain to satisfy governments on both sides of the Community's cultural divide: those of the southern member states, which feared that the open borders of the single market would be an invitation to rich and unscrupulous dealers from northern Europe to pilfer their treasures, and those of the northern member states which feared the southern countries would twist new EC rules and demand the mass restitution of the many classical and Renaissance treasures in their museums.

But yesterday the Commission made clear that any treasures that have been out of a country for more than 30 years cannot be claimed back; nor can they be reclaimed if they have been missing for only five years but the country concerned knew of their whereabouts and did nothing about it.

If these rules are approved by arts and culture ministers, the Elgin marbles, taken from the Parthenon by the

Earl of Elgin, Thomas Bruce, early in the last century, are set to stay in London. "The only way Greece will get them back is if the government decides to return them voluntarily," a Commission official said yesterday.

However, for disputed treasures that are taken across EC borders from next year, restitution by tribunal will be possible. The Commission, in consultation with governments and art authorities, has compiled categories of national treasures and threshold values that could enable new arts tribunals to force dealers to send goods back and seek reimbursement from host governments.

Art dealers say that it is difficult to assess the potential impact of the Commission's list and proposals, but Setchey's suggested that some British masterpieces lost in the past could not have slipped through the net had the proposed rules been in place.

Baron von Thyssen, for example, did well to buy Constable's 1824 painting *The Lock* in November, 1990 before the new rules were in place. In future, a British arts tribunal could order the baron to return the painting, with the government told to reimburse him for the £10.78 million he spent on it.

## Poll blow for beleaguered Bush

## 'Freefall' economy traps president

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN DOWRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

PRESIDENT Bush, admitting that he faces a big problem in next month's New Hampshire primary, heard yesterday first-hand about the "freefall" local economy that is threatening his re-election campaign.

A morning meeting with business leaders, held in a drafty hangar at Pease air force base, near Portsmouth, New Hampshire, produced a torrent of criticism of administration policy, ranging from over-regulation of local banks to the lack of a national industrial strategy.

On the day when opinion polls indicated that only 35 per cent of American voters want Mr Bush to be re-elected to the White House, the president did not mention his main challenger, Patrick Buchanan, the "America First" Republican. But he attacked the silent voices of right-wing extremists and accused his political opponents of making outrageous attacks on his record.

The new poll — a joint survey by Republican and Democratic polling organisations — indicated that 46 per cent of Americans wanted a new occupant in the White House next year. Mr Bush, struggling for support, called for an economic crusade in the same spirit as that of the war against Iraq which Mr Buchanan, as the Bush campaign chairman reminded the crowd, had opposed. Dis-

avowing "quick-fix solutions", the president promised that recovery would come.

According to Mr Buchanan, who has been storming through the state for six weeks, the cause of New Hampshire's economic collapse is the "breach of faith" by Mr Bush in raising taxes. He challenged Mr Bush to sign again the "no new taxes" pledge that he took in 1988 when victory in the New Hampshire primary unseated the tide for his then failing presidential campaign. The president said that he took his pledge when he took his oath of office three years ago.

Mr Bush, who is now only 16 points ahead of Mr Buchanan among Republicans, began his day in defensive mood, praising his recent, much mocked, trip to Japan whose reception seems still to be uppermost in his mind. Although the business leaders at the airforce base had been carefully selected by local campaign managers, they gave the president a grim picture of a bleeding economy "in freefall", with collapsing property values and modern offices that cannot be leased at any price.

The state that holds the nation's first primary election and has a disproportionate impact upon all American presidential elections had lost 50,000 jobs in the past three years, Mr Bush was told. Fifteen thousand more would be

gone, the industrialists said, by the time of the next presidential inauguration.

The president, looking fit but tense, made his ritual attack on the Democrat-controlled Congress for "stifling" his economic growth plans. Raising his voice in anger several times, he insisted that his proposed capital gains tax cut was "not a tax cut for the rich" but would benefit the small firms that produced jobs.

Speaking before a makeshift backdrop of a helicopter and a Cessna light aircraft, Mr Bush said that he accepted his share of the blame for the economic downturn. He criticised the "go-go excesses" of the Eighties and promised sceptical company executives that his office would investigate complaints about banks reluctant to lend. He said that he would like to see the Federal Reserve reduce interest rates further.

Hollow victory, page 7



Street walking: a group of 200 prostitutes and demonstrators converging on the steps of Melbourne's supreme court yesterday to protest against a recent ruling that prostitutes suffer less psychological trauma when raped

than other women. Newspapers have been swamped with letters from prostitutes, middle-class Australians and the legal fraternity, expressing anger and dismay at the December 12 ruling in which a rapist was given a 30-

month jail sentence for raping a prostitute. The president of the Australian law reform commission, Justice Elizabeth Evatt, has vowed to raise the ruling at the United Nations next month. (Reuters)

## Sex slave families protest

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

ON THE eve of a trip to South Korea by Kiichi Miyazawa, Japan's prime minister, hundreds of Koreans staged a violent rally outside the Japanese embassy in Seoul yesterday. The stone-throwing marchers were protesting at Japan's refusal to grant compensation to the families of up to 200,000 Korean women forced to act as prostitutes for Japanese soldiers in the second world war.

Known as "comfort women", these slaves ranged in age from pre-teens to 70-year-olds, and were part of what the government has termed "logistical support" for the military. Under orders from the Japanese government, they were attached to military units, where they were used by hundreds of soldiers.

A telephone hot line, opened by human rights groups on Tuesday, has attracted hundreds of calls from former army members. Their confessions have thrown new light on Japanese brutality during the occupation of Korea.

## Algeria council rebuffed

Algiers: The Muslim fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front, in Algeria yesterday condemned the creation of a "council of state" to rule the country and claimed security forces have rounded up scores of suspected government opponents (John Phillips writes).

The authorities still have not given a clear timetable for assumption of power by the new five-man presidential college, which has a mandate that can extend to the end of next year if necessary.

Mohammed Boudiaf, the veteran independence fighter who is president of the council of state, is expected to arrive in Algiers today from exile in Morocco.

## 'Ivan' evidence

Jerusalem: The appeal hearing on John Demjanjuk, sentenced to death for the wartime murder of Jews, was shown evidence that he was an SS concentration camp guard, but not linked to 'Ivan the Terrible', the man he is accused of being.

## Interim hope

Johannesburg: South Africa's leaders hope to hold a referendum on power-sharing within six months, and believe a multiracial government is possible this year. Prospects for an interim government have grown in talks between the main parties.

## Aid disputed

Istanbul: Suleyman Demirel, the Turkish prime minister, has stepped in to defuse a dispute over newspaper accusations that Western forces attached to Operation Provide Comfort diverted aid for Iraqi Kurds to Kurdish guerrillas fighting against Turkey.

## Toxic wine

Rome: Police in the Veneto region of northern Italy seized four million litres of wine laced with pesticide. Four wine producers have been arrested; a fifth is still at large. Supermarket customers had reported a "strange taste" and headaches.

## Hurd in Delhi

Delhi: Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, arrived in Delhi for talks that are regarded by India as crucial to its hopes of establishing closer ties with the West following the collapse of the Soviet Union, which was its most important ally.

## Bomb denial

Islamabad: Pakistan denied having a nuclear bomb and said that it was committed to a policy of nuclear non-proliferation. A foreign ministry spokesman rejected a statement by a US senator that Pakistan possessed the "Islamic bomb". (Reuters)

## Talks 'in danger of collapse'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

PALESTINIAN negotiators said yesterday that peace talks with Israel were in danger of collapsing after just two days because the Israelis refused even to discuss curtailing settlement activity in the occupied territories.

Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, said that during an acrimonious meeting late on Tuesday, the two sides had come to a head-on collision, and that there was a "distinct possibility of the collapse of the negotiations". An Israeli participant admitted that it had been "pretty hot in the room".

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, made a rare overt intervention, meeting the heads of the Israeli and Arab delegations separately in his office on Tuesday night and yesterday morning in an apparent attempt to move the peace process forward. However, the Israelis were still planning to leave Washington last night.

Dr Ashrawi said Palestinian negotiators had told the Israelis that halting their settlement activity was essential if the talks were to succeed. The talks were predicated on the principle of land for



Ashrawi: in heated debate with Israelis

peace. "If they steal all our land, there'll be nothing left to negotiate," she said. The Israelis had replied that "they have the right to the whole land... They gave the answer that settlement activity would not stop," she said.

An Israeli spokeswoman said the purpose of the present talks was to reach an agreement on interim Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories. The settlement question should be dealt with during the next phase.

The standoff in Washington came as hardliners set-up new Jewish settlements in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday. However, the army moved in and evicted them.

But tension in the region remained high after Tuesday's Palestinian attack on a bus carrying Jewish settlers. Pro-secter parties yesterday were debating whether to pull out of Yitzhak Shamir's coalition government.

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Nature's remedy: Dr Sawyer with a 7 inch Amazonian leech

## Kiss of life from the blood sucker

After years of ignominy, leeches are reasserting themselves at the forefront of medical research. With the help of Dr Roy Sawyer, the owner of Biopharm, a Welsh leech farm near Swansea, the leeches are preparing for a new role against heart disease, the Western world's great killer.

Leeches, which live by sucking blood, have powerful anti-coagulants in their saliva to prevent the blood from clotting. Dr Sawyer, a biotechnologist, was convinced that if these anti-coagulants could be isolated, they could save the lives of heart-attack victims.

"My first task was to find the right leech because all the 650 species have different anti-coagulants," he says. "Two years ago, I began working with a 12in-long Asian leech. I found that its anti-coagulants prevented blood clots re-forming after a stroke or heart attack."

The next problem was producing the anti-coagulants in large enough quantities. Genetic engineering was the obvious answer. So, in association with

Farmitalia di Milan, a pharmaceutical company, a method of inserting the anti-coagulant gene into the *E. Coli* bacteria was devised.

Toxicological and pharmacological tests start this year. Dr Sawyer hopes the anti-coagulant, called Bufudrin, will start clinical trials in Italy by Christmas.

Bufudrin is one of three leech products that Dr Sawyer is developing. Hementin, an anti-coagulant produced by a leech from the Amazon, can dissolve blood clots, including the 20 to 30 per cent of platelet-rich clots that cannot be dissolved by any existing drugs.

Dr Sawyer is discussing this product with other pharmaceutical companies. He hopes that Hementin can be developed here rather than in Italy. When it reaches the market-place, he hopes Hementin will be given to patients immediately they suffer an attack, then followed for up to a week by Bufudrin to ensure that clots do not re-form.

IOLA SMITH

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# A picture of slow death

Reels of historic films are decaying in archives because they are made of plastic. Nigel Hawkes investigates



Jagged edge: an archive frame of an old cellulose nitrate film shows signs of erosion

Curators of museums and film archives are facing a problem that will come as a shock to those who consider plastics an environmental menace. Littering shopping centres or lodged in the hedge-rows, plastic packaging seems to be possessed of eternal life, but that is an illusion.

At the Tate Gallery in London, Derek Pullen, a conservator, is trying to preserve some valuable pieces by Naum Gabo, a Russian-born sculptor who pioneered the use of plastics in sculpture. Several of Gabo's smaller pieces have already decayed beyond repair and the Tate wants to save the rest.

There is an even bigger problem at the National Film Archive (NFA), where the old cellulose nitrate film stock, dating from the days of Charlie Chaplin, has become unstable. It was an unpleasant shock to discover that modern cellulose acetate stock, to which many old films have been transferred, is also decaying. And some films dating from the mid-1960s are already sticky and unplayable, the images lost.

Sylvia Katz, a plastics collector, says the saddest thing is to discover that a prized item has caught the disease. "One day you might have a very special object, a box or a comb inlaid with diamonds," she says. "A few days later, you find the first evidence of crazing or stickiness. Once it has started, you can never stop it. The worst thing is that other objects kept nearby

can suffer, too, like 'catching a disease'."

The conservation unit of the Museums and Galleries Commission has recently published a guide to the conservation of plastics by John Morgan, a scientist who works at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire. The problem could worsen as more and more records and documents are stored on floppy discs made of plastic.

He says that many museums have stored plastic items away without particular care because they thought the items indestruct-

ible and do not know they have a problem until it is too late.

How plastics decay is now quite well understood, thanks to work by Professor Norman Allen and Dr Michelle Edge at the Centre for Archival Polymer Materials at Manchester Polytechnic. Not all plastics suffer to the same degree or in the same way, but among the more vulnerable are the semi-synthetic cellulose nitrate and cellulose acetate.

Both are based on a natural material, cellulose, the main structural element in timber. Cellulose nitrate was developed in the

1860s, became the most widely used plastic for 60 years and was used as film stock until the 1940s. Cellulose acetate took over from nitrate as a film stock.

The basic process of decay, says Professor Allen, is hydrolysis, in which moisture from the air starts a reaction which breaks the chain linking the polymer together. The plasticiser crystallises, forming a bloom on the surface, and acetic acid is released, acting as a catalyst to initiate the decay of neighbouring objects.

The process is quickest when the plastics are stored in steel contain-

ers, such as film cans at the NFA. The fastest way to tell whether decay is happening, says Tony Cook, the acting head of conservation at the NFA, is to open a can of film and sniff. The human nose can detect acetic acid in quantities as small as one part per million, so films suffering "the vinegar syndrome" can easily be identified. Films that smell are removed and put into temporary storage elsewhere, to try to slow the spread of the disease.

Once plastics start to crack, there is nothing to be done. "It's like trying to revive a dead body," Professor Allen says. But there may be ways of delaying the process. At the Tate, temperature and humidity have been lowered around vulnerable objects to slow the onset of possible decay. Pieces are sometimes isolated, to prevent spread.

Adequate ventilation is important for cellulose nitrate, but cellulose acetate should not be so well ventilated because it is vulnerable to plasticiser loss. Dr Morgan recommends a loosely wrapped single tissue.

What will happen in future is even more problematical, Professor Allen believes, because environmental pressures have led manufacturers to seek more biodegradable plastics. It seems certain that many simple artefacts of the 20th century will turn out to have a much shorter life than anybody realised when they were made. Plastics are not for ever.

## The Flying Dutchmen

HENK BRINK, a Dutchman, will attempt to fly around the world non-stop in a balloon this year. With Willem Hageman, his co-pilot, he will fly in a pressurised capsule at heights of 33,000ft and at speeds of 186mph. The two Dutchmen could be beaten to the record by Larry Newman, an American who plans a round-the-world trip later this month, sponsored by Richard Branson.

### New Ice age?

INCREASED amounts of greenhouse gases could cause a new ice age rather than global warming, according to calculations by Ann de Vernal, of the university of Quebec, and Gifford Miller, of the

university of Colorado, writing in *Nature*.

Higher temperatures at the poles could cause more snow to fall, and cloudier summers will reduce the melting rate, leading to the growth of ice sheets. Very similar conditions existed before the last glaciation, they say.

### Sweet success

IN A possible treatment for diabetes, American scientists have created human cells able to produce and regulate insulin. Using genetic engineering, Dr Christopher Newgard, of the University of Texas, altered cells from the pituitary gland by adding a sugar-sensing gene from healthy insulin-producing cells. His idea is to produce cells which can be grown in unlimited quantities and then

transplanted into diabetic patients to perform the function of the cells they lack.

### Keys to the door

THE average American household will have more computers than children by the year 1999, a Texas marketing firm forecasts. Channel Marketing Corporation estimates there will be an average of 2.2 personal computers in every household, and that notebook computers will be as common in US schools by 1999 as the pocket calculator is now.

### Useless weapons

MOST of the nerve gases produced by Iraq were of poor quality and degraded rapidly with time, according to a Dutch scientist. Marius van Zelm, who led the

United Nations inspection team that visited the plant where the weapons were made, said they found 75 tonnes of nerve gases, but they decayed so fast that the Iraqis could not build up big stocks.

### Weevils at war

SCIENTISTS have begun releasing a species of Mexican weevil in an attempt to halt the spread of *Mimosa pigra*, a shrub threatening Australia's tropical coastal areas and its famous wildlife park. Fire, chemicals and machines have failed to defeat the fast-growing thorny plant, from tropical America, which is invading Australian wetlands, including Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory. The weevil will eat the mimosa's flowers, reducing seed production and

slowing the spread of the plant. Ecological warfare has had success in Australia, notably with the cactoblastis, a beetle imported to wipe out the prickly pear cactus, but it has also had its disasters, notably the introduction of the cane toad to Queensland to attack a cane-eating beetle. The toad became a pest.



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# Tired, fed up and as low as you can get

British doctors — unlike those in the rest of Europe — have always felt that low blood pressure does not need treatment. Now, Ann Kent reports, there is a change of heart

Tell a British GP you are tired, and he will probably think "Aren't we all?" In fact, 30 per cent of women claim that they are always tired, as do 20 per cent of men. When a symptom is so widespread it verges on normal.

Other symptoms almost as common and equally likely to make the GP's heart sink, are unexplained dizziness, tiredness, insomnia and depression.

But while the British GP will think these problems are caused by unhappiness — a problem which drugs cannot cure — a doctor from Germany, France, Spain or Italy may take a different view. In these countries the diagnosis may be "hypotensive syndrome" or, more simply, low blood pressure.

Research published in last week's *British Medical Journal* has confirmed that low blood pressure (hypotension) is associated with dizziness, tiredness, insomnia and depression.

In Britain doctors reassure those with low blood pressure that they are likely to live longer than the rest of the population as they are less likely to suffer from cardiovascular disease, but many Continental doctors will offer treatments designed to raise blood pressure.

Treatments include digoxin, which makes the heart work harder, derivatives of ergot to constrict blood vessels, the stimulant caffeine, increased exercise (which can cause low blood pressure), as alternative remedies, calf exercisers, which might work because it contains a blood pressure raising substance, pyrazine, and vitamin supplements (pancreas if all else fails).

Until now the British medical profession has regarded this as over-prescribing by foreigners.

Patients are told firmly that while high blood pressure (hypertension) requires treatment because of its links with heart disease, hypotension does not.

Now the two studies reported in

the *BMJ*, involving thousands of Britons, may cause the medical profession to qualify its advice. Both studies establish a link between low blood pressure, tiredness and dizziness. The first, by Dr Simon Wesely, was published in August 1990. The second, published last week, involved more than 10,000 people. It confirmed Dr Wesely's work, but also found

**'A trial to see if patients might benefit from drug therapy is justified. Two years ago, I would have regarded such a suggestion as rubbish'**

an association between low blood pressure and anxiety and depression.

In short, they identify hypotensive syndrome which has previously been dismissed as non-existent by English-speaking physicians.

Professor Anthony Mann, the vice dean of the Institute of Psychiatry, believes it is now time that British doctors abandoned their "blinkered" approach to hypotension. He points out that the links between blood pressure and certain neurotic symptoms have been recognised in the past. Nervous exhaustion (neuroasthenia), a condition which has now gone out of fashion, was known to be linked with hypotension. The symptoms included loss of energy, insomnia, depression, irritability and reduced concentration.

Professor Mann is sufficiently

intrigued by recent findings to check the blood pressures of his psychiatric patients — although this is not a routine part of a psychiatric examination. But he is worried that some patients taking drugs to reduce high blood pressure may be tempted to stop.

Dr Wesely, a senior lecturer in psychiatry, at King's College Hospital, London, and Dr Pilgrim, a lecturer in psychiatric epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, both emphasise that their work shows an association, and does not prove that low blood pressure causes tiredness and (in the case of Dr Pilgrim's study) depression. Alternative explanations include the possibility that depression itself lowers blood pressure, or that some other, as yet unknown factor is causing both low blood pressure and low mood.

If cause and effect is proven, however, the drug companies, alternative therapists and vitamin pill manufacturers will be rubbing their hands in glee. Whenever a new condition is identified, the small numbers of afflicted patients are swelled by battalions of the "worried well" who become convinced they are also sufferers. Recent examples include those who genuinely believe themselves to be allergic to the 20th century, or suffering from genital herpes, sick building syndrome and ME. The worried well patient who cannot be reassured or she is not HIV positive is a well known figure to Aids specialists. For those seeking a label for their ill, unexplained tiredness is an easy symptom to latch on to.

Dr Wesely admits that he was surprised by the results of his research. "I had expected to find that the American teaching was correct, and that the Germans and others were treating psychological symptoms and getting a placebo effect," he says. "Now I think a clinical trial to see if some patients might benefit from drug therapy is justified. Two years ago, I would

have regarded such a suggestion as rubbish."

Dr Wesely's study linked tiredness with low blood pressure. Dr Pilgrim, arrived at a similar conclusion, but found that people with low blood pressure were also likely to show symptoms of generalised anxiety, for example feeling low and panicky and being unable to concentrate.

Women with the lowest blood pressures were 72 per cent more likely than those with the highest pressures to show symptoms serious enough to justify medical intervention, while men with low blood pressure were 42 per cent more likely.

Dr Pilgrim says: "If hypotensive syndrome really exists, there may well be a subgroup of patients who would benefit from treatment." Dr Pilgrim is about to start further

studies to explore the prevalence of low blood pressure among people admitted to psychiatric wards, and on how blood pressure is influenced by changes of mood.

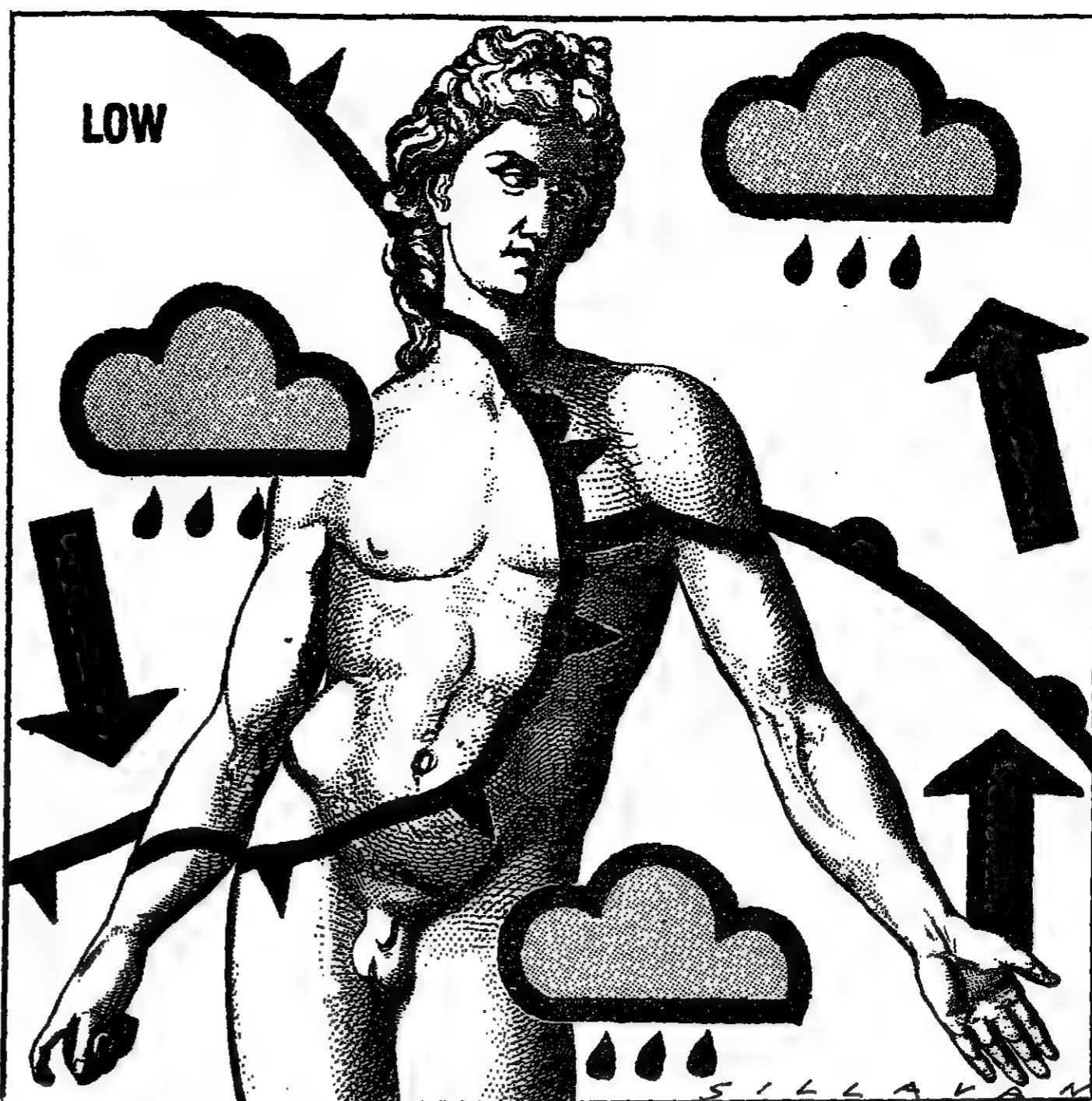
It is already known that emotional changes can alter blood pressure — some people are so frightened of what the doctor will discover about their health that they develop a condition known as "white coat hypertension". Blood pressure also rises when we exercise, or feel stressed, and falls when we sleep.

Dr Pilgrim suggests that biofeedback techniques (connecting patients to a recording instrument which provides them with constant information about the body system) could be used to teach them to raise their blood pressures, without subjecting them to

drug treatments which might carry adverse effects.

At present biofeedback is used by those seeking to lower their blood pressures, but Dr Pilgrim believes it is theoretically possible to reverse this process. However, he admits: "I would rather have low blood pressure, and put up with occasional low moods (if it increased my longevity)." John Swales, a professor of medicine at Leicester University, agrees. "If I had low blood pressure, the knowledge that I was going to live longer would make up for any feelings of misery. Hypotension is a fascinating, under researched subject. While the link between low blood pressure and increased life expectancy is indisputable, that does not help if the individual patient has symptoms."

There is an effective, but unglamorous treatment for one of the commonest symptoms of low blood pressure — dizziness when rising from a seated or lying position. This is most likely to affect tall, thin people, adolescents and the elderly and is treated by elastic stockings which increase the venous return of blood to the heart. "Perhaps we will be giving out more of them," Professor Swales suggests.



## Backing the lie-detector

DOCTORS have been intrigued by headlines suggesting that a machine had been devised which could distinguish the genuine backache sufferer from the shirker. The doctor has the almost impossible job of deciding how much physical disability there is, and determining to what extent any physical damage is either enhanced or minimised by the patient's psyche, in particular their pain threshold, determination and any subconscious desire for invalidism or compensation.

Patients are strapped to the back tester — this is the E200 — in such a way that they are almost totally immobilised, and only movements of the lower part of the back are possible. Various gauges then measure any movement, and results can be computerised.

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**MEDICAL BRIEFING**  
**Dr Thomas Stuttford**

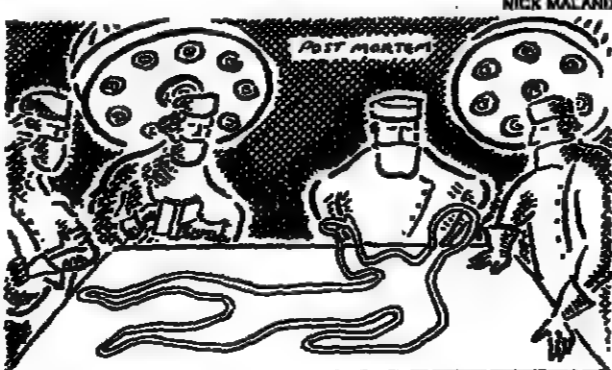
The machine is made in the United States and marketed in Britain by Fichtback UK, which is run by two registered osteopaths, James Kitchen and Dr Hugo Kitchen, who also has a medical qualification.

Pain is entirely subjective, and the degree to which it is suffered can vary, depending on other factors. It is, for

instance, increased if the patient is depressed, tired or dispirited. Conversely, it is reduced by excitement and happiness.

Unfortunately the machine can only detect and measure muscular dysfunction: it shows that physical trouble is present but cannot determine to what extent this dysfunction may be increased by a low pain threshold, an opinion confirmed by the secretary of Fichtback UK.

Even without the Isostation 200, the modern doctor is not entirely denied scientific aids. Advances in scanning, particularly the MRI scanner, can often enable a radiologist to pinpoint the exact spot at which a nerve root is being irritated, and have revolutionised the diagnosis of back pain.



and to use the knowledge to determine the treatment of other patients with similar problems. All too often PM findings fail to confirm ward round opinions and expose diagnostic weaknesses, useful reminders to doctors of their fallibility and the dangers of pontification.

After a sudden death the cause of death at post mortem is often obvious: few could miss the signs of a massive cerebral haemorrhage (a stroke), a ruptured aortic aneurysm (a swelling of the artery wall) or a coronary thrombosis, in which a large clot can be drawn from a diseased artery.

But in the many cases of sudden death where there are no suspicious circumstances, a run-of-the-mill post mortem provides invaluable information about a patient's lifestyle and general health — it was reported, for instance, that Maxwell's love of champagne had taken its toll and his liver showed signs of cirrhosis — but may fail to isolate the precise cause of death. The final conclusions may well be based as much on the medical history, the story of a

patient's last moments and on probabilities as on any particular sign.

The post mortem carried out by a Home Office pathologist after a suspicious death are in a different category. They may embrace many disciplines of medical science and require not only skill, imagination, expertise and experience on the part of the pathologist, but the support of teams of scientists working on the patient's organs in the laboratory.

IMMEDIATELY after Maxwell's death the index of suspicion was too low and the assumption seemed to be that the only question was whether he died before or after hitting the water. Even if this question had been satisfactorily answered others have remained unresolved.

The first post mortem might have been ideally suited to the man who had collapsed while eating his paella on holiday, but in Maxwell's case an examination more akin to that which would have taken place at Guy's or the Royal London Hospital was called for.

The horse was too weak to stand. So her owner left her in a garage for six weeks, supported by a hoist.



L'Île d'Yeu, France, January 1990.

This four year old mare belonged to a farmer from the Brittany region of France. She had fallen into a ditch and become entangled in barbed wire. Instead of calling a vet her owner left her to suffer in a garage with only bread and rabbit food to eat. It was here she was discovered by one of our Inspectors. It is cruel and unnecessary, but don't think it is just confined to places like France. We see appalling scenes like this all over the world, virtually every day of the week.

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# Magnanimous wasp of letters

Nicholas Mosley, author of *Hopeful Monsters*, recommends John Updike as a solid guide to world literature

There is an extraordinary passage in this huge collection of John Updike's occasional writings in which he describes how, while reviewing a collection of letters by his friend John Cheever, he comes across a letter in which there is a derogatory reference to himself. Cheever says of him: "I think his magnanimity specious, and his work seems motivated by covetousness, exhibitionism and a story heart." John Updike quotes this in his review, and goes on to praise Cheever — "a gem of a man, instantly poetic". By this he offers evidence of his magnanimity — and of his aloofness from the envy and bickery of much of the literary world.

Odd Jobs consists mainly of Updike's book-reviews over the last ten years: there are some literary and autobiographical essays as prologue and postscript. The range is astonishing: anyone

offer except boxes of tricks. In his essays on literature, Updike looks back to a golden age personified by Emerson for whom it seemed a matter of evidence as well as of faith that "nature and our souls are one", and that thus there was a chance for optimism. He quotes with approval a passage from Graham Greene — "After the death of Henry James a disaster overtook the English novel... the religious sense was lost... and with this religious sense went the importance of the human act." As a result of this, Updike suggests, we are now stuck with novels in which "everything happens as if to tourists who can't shake their jet lag... we have lost touch with the way of things, and what is left is fast food for the senses and the humming brain". Again — "if fiction is in decline it is because we have lost faith in the capacity of the individual to venture forth and suffer the consequences of his dreams... how rare it is, these days, to encounter characters with wills, with a sense of choice". We are

**ODD JOBS**  
By John Updike  
André Deutsch, £20.00

The journey goes from North and South America to Western and Eastern Europe; to Russia, to Africa, to Saudi Arabia, to Japan. Nearly every writer reviewed is given a sympathetic hearing: the writing is continuously elegant and inventive; there are some lovely images and insights. Iris Murdoch's later fictions, albeit lurid, are described as "portly": about Kafka — "although he did not find God, he did not blame Him". There is distaste shown at the sense of putrefaction in some German novels and at the monotony of violence in some South American ones (the Latin American novelist is in danger of writing whodunits wherein the government, invariably, did it).

Updike recognises however that "to become human" one may have to "make the descent into filth"; and he notes, with regard to Russia, that "people will always harken to any system that offers to give suffering a meaning, even at the cost of deepening their suffering". His most unequivocal disapproval is shown towards Umberto Eco and one or two fashionable English novelists who, for all their displays of erudition and style, he suggests have little to

confined, that is, within the bubble of so-called post-modernism in which humans seem no longer able even to strike defiant (modernist) attitudes against their fate; there is left to them only (but what a marvel of an image!) "a cartoon cat version of modernism — the cat keeps running even though he has only air underneath him". Updike's strength as a critic is that he stands against the "politically correct" school of criticism in which aspects of American conservatism are condemned without any acknowledgement that it is just this conservatism that has ensured the freedom of such critics to have a voice. In the battle between the bigoted and the magnanimous it is often true that the bigots have to be allowed to get away with vindictiveness: one sometimes wishes that the sweetly reasonable might answer back with bricks. But the hope of reason has to be that bigotry in the end will be self-defeating: the houses of the envious will collapse like those built on sand.

The house that as a critic John Updike has built seems to me to rest on solid rock, and perhaps in this context there is little more to be said. It is in his novels that



something more seems to be required than his erudition and his mellifluous prose: his very comprehensiveness, as John Cheever suggested, might be a curse. In *Roger's Version*, for instance — a novel that Updike lists here as one of his favourites — his astonishing displays of knowledge concerning both modern science and Christian theology are counterpoised by lengthy passages of what Updike himself in this

context calls pornography: presumably these were aimed at bringing what might be seen as flights of fantasy down to earth. But there are no connections between the two — so that it is sometimes as if Updike himself, for all his energy and poise, is left scrabbling post-modernist cat. It is when a sense of this blows

over into the criticism that one sometimes wishes for a more savage grasping of needles, but not for long, because there is enough savagery, surely, in the literary world, and there are few, very few, Grand Old Men of Letters. John Updike is one of the best of these. He speaks with authority — even though (or because?) he recognises that authority nowadays depends on just an individual's courage and intelligence and talent.

## Civil poet in the service of the state

Charles Sisson is a remarkable man. In the forefront, so to speak, there is the writer, author of several books of poetry and criticism, of a novel and of translations of a range of exceedingly substantial works in a variety of languages: Lucretius, *The Divine Comedy*, *The Aeneid*, *The Song of Roland*. Somewhat concealed behind this solid literary career is what might be called his daytime job. For the best part of forty years he was a civil servant in the Ministry of Labour, retiring in the mid-1970s as the director of occupational safety and health. That ministry's more genial named successor, the Department of Employment.

Other civil servants have had distinguished literary careers. Trollope for example. But in our

Bagshot's influential account of the British monarch as merely "dignified" and not "efficient" is rejected as ignorant and offensive. his *Lombard Street* as a device for enhancing the power and prestige (and, of course, wealth) of people like himself, namely bankers, resented of the status of the traditional authorities.

This is a fine piece of poetic. Bagshot's method, he says, "was not to yield to reality but to be clever about it, and to ingratiate himself sufficiently to make sure that he was not left alone. There is an affable, mazy tone about his work which has made thousands of mediocrities feel at home with him."

Bagshot comes badly mangled out of Sisson's compelling assault. Its contempt for Bagshot's character and moves is legitimised by the force of his criticism of the glibness and superficiality of much of Bagshot's thinking. Conventional an object of questioning a mir-

**Anthony Quinn**

**ENGLISH PERSPECTIVES**

by C. H. Sisson  
Carcanet, £18.95

age literary civil servants have been rather lightweight: Edward Marsh, Humbert Wolfe, Charles Johnson. Sisson's singularity does not lie in that but in the strikingly un-bureaucratic body of ideas by which his writing has been informed.

In the early Thirties, in *After Strange Gods*, T. S. Eliot proclaimed his adherence to royalism, classicism and Anglicanism. Soon embarrassed by the range and definiteness of that commitment, he never let the book be reprinted. Sisson has remained uncompromisingly loyal to it from 1937, when he wrote a piece (reprinted here) on one of Eliot's fiercer mentors, Charles Maurras, founder of the Action Française, to the present day. Maurras is looked back on, admirably, in an essay of 1976.

About half the book is made up of a good part of two previous publications: *The Spirit of British Administration* and *The Case of Walter Bagehot*. In the first of these, a mordant comparison of British with French and German bureaucracy, the intensity of his rejection of liberal-democratic orthodoxy is decently veiled. His main point is that "keeping the business of government going is the task of the bureaucrats and that the antics of politicians are of marginal importance. The British procedure of letting law grow out of custom is preferred to French rationalism, seen as conducive to obsolescence and corruption."

Bagshot is singled out for vehement assault as the most knowing, complacent and self-serving of disseminators of liberal-democratic ideas, leading on to E. M. Forster's approbation of treachery and Keynes's "immoralism".

action, he is a credibly important target to fire at. In pursuit of Sisson's aim as one of "those who have felt impelled to question the assumptions on which the public affairs of their times have been conducted", it is odd that Sisson has retired to live at Lampour, Bagshot's birthplace and at of the family bank where he is his start. The place must vibrate with displeasing reminders of his.

On either side of these comparatively accommodating works *English Perspectives* is made up of twenty-five essays, some of them very short, but all with substantial content, addressed to the small audiences of fairly light-periodicals. Here Sisson seeks without reserve about the necessity of the crown as a unifier of the nation and of the monarch's place as head of the church in establishing a fundamental unity of church and state, following, with a measure of desperation, give the circumstances of the age, Coleridge and, at a distance, H. D. There is a tension between his reverence for the state and his claim that "the aims of government are servitude with and conquest without". From that principle he infers that the price of liberty is a measure of disorder.

As the sole, perhaps last, active exponent of Eliot's three seals, Sisson is at once exotic and invigorating. He turns over the compost-heap of liberal-democratic platitudes in fine prose and with admirable disinterestedness.

## Coup that left doves blushing

The sudden and dramatic demise of the Soviet Union, an event of such daunting magnitude that the present generation of scholars is unlikely to grasp its full implications, has already been crucial to many reputations. As teams of Western specialists sift through recently available Soviet archives, further revelations about the nature of the Soviet Union and its political class are likely to heap yet more embarrassment upon those who got it wrong. The Soviet collapse is proving no less cruel to publishers. Supplying a most imprudent hostage to fortune the publishers of the present volume declare: "Whatever the outcome of the present constitutional reforms, the Soviet Union will remain a military superpower with global interests. If this is the best reason for buying this book there are unlikely to be many purchases. For the introduction of these reforms led to the failed August putsch, as a result of which the Soviet Union can no longer be said to possess any interests, for the obvious reason that it no longer exists."

It is, of course, true that given its size, power, its economic potential and the nuclear legacy which it has been bequeathed, Russia is likely to return to the world stage as a key player. If so its interests, including security, will not be identical to the imperial power which preceded it.

To doubt the wisdom of publishing the book in its present form is not to deny the historical importance of the subject. The Soviet Union emphatically did achieve its ambition to be a superpower, but it did so in a military sense only. The overriding priority that successive leaders, including Gorbachev, gave to military expenditure, in marked contrast to the hedonistic West, along with the influences which shaped Soviet military thinking, are thus likely to be of enduring interest. Since August's botched coup Boris Yeltsin has thrown open the files of the Central Committee to Western scholars. Following German reunification Western forces took possession of 25,000 military documents including the Soviet plan for the invasion of Western Europe. According to the analysts working through these documents, the Warsaw pact assumed

**Gerald Frost**

**SOVIET STRATEGY AND NEW MILITARY THINKING**  
edited by Derek Leebart and Timothy Dickinson  
Cambridge University Press, £32.50, pb £11.95

such a fast rate of advance that it is clear that it assumed the use of both nuclear and chemical weapons. The documents show that the pact did not begin defensive exercises until 1989.

The politically diverse contributors to Leebart's collection of essays on different aspects of Soviet military thought have not been able to draw on such materials. The documents will take many months to translate and organise and much longer to assess. Any interim appraisal however would be more likely to support the "hawks" among the defence analysts than the "doves".

In this volume, the latter are represented by Raymond Garthoff, a distinguished former ambassador and arms negotiator who maintains that the Soviet Union acquired its nuclear arsenal for the same deterrent purpose as the US. Thanks to KGB activity and intelligent appraisal of the information gathered, the Soviets had a very good idea of Western intentions. Why the need then to spend over 25 per cent of the national resources (Shevardnadze's figure) on "deterrence"? Ambassador Garthoff is content to blame the West for the difficulties which occurred between the superpowers, saving special words of criticism for the "unilateral military build-up" under Reagan. One suspects, however, that history will prefer the judgement of Colin Gray — the other heavyweight contributor — when he asserts: "The much vilified idea attributed to the Reagan presidency in 1981-82 of in effect spending the Soviet Union into bankruptcy no longer looks quite so primitive or so foolish. Where else did *perestroika* and *glasnost* come from if not from desperate Soviet recognition that, unreformed, they were outclassed in their ability to compete?"

## Nations cruise towards Armageddon

For any historian, the genesis of the catastrophe of 1914 is a gift from the gods. Since 1989, the return of a strategic complexity reminiscent of the great power politics of pre-1914 Europe has revived interest in an era that suddenly looks pregnant with significance for our own time as it never did during the age of totalitarian ideologies. The moment is ripe for a good populariser to exploit both the public's appetite for historical parables and an unusually rich body of scholarship to write something instructive as well as entertaining, with one ear cocked for echoes in the present.

Robert Massie's *Dreadnought* is not such a book. Obsessed with the question "who whom?", it too often bypasses the question "why?", and is thus ultimately unsatisfying despite its readability. Adorned with colourful, often elegantly written sketches of all the main actors and many minor ones, Massie's book is strong on *tableaux* of the Kaiser bluffing in a yacht race, Tirpitz visiting the aged Bismarck, Sir Edward Grey banging his fist in the Commons.

Massie never loses himself in naval jargon, and he is unfailingly scrupulous in his judgments of people. If the British elite on the whole emerges as more sympathetic than the German, that is probably fair. But Massie's heroes are unvarnished. Sir John Fisher, the pivotal figure in the naval arms race, is quoted advocating, as a deterrent, the torture of civilians.

The weaknesses of the book are partly to do with its ill-defined scope. As the title implies, at its heart is an account of the naval rivalry between Britain and Germany. However, this sprawling volume of over 900 pages overflows with potted histories of so many other themes that any argument is lost in detail and the narrative flow almost ceases.

Predictably, *Dreadnought* suffers from the flaws attendant upon constant resort to the excurse: repetition and inaccuracy, sometimes both together. Needless

**Daniel Johnson**

**DREADNOUGHT**  
Britain, Germany, and the Coming of the Great War  
by Robert K. Massie  
Jonathan Cape, £20.00

repeating the date of Bismarck's death, for instance, he gets it wrong. There is no need for a book about the origins of 1914 to give an exhaustive account of the

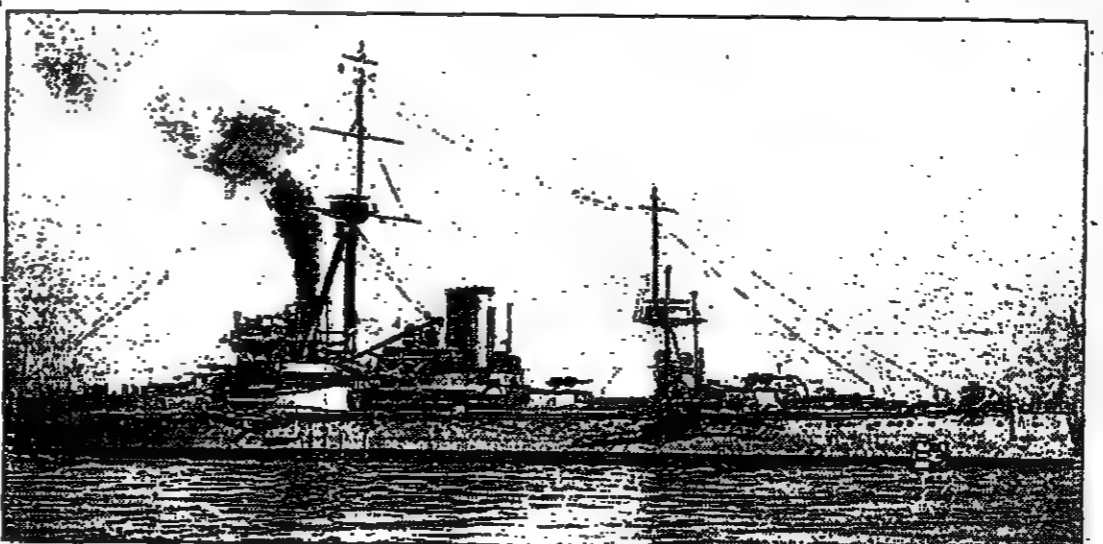
Franco-Prussian war. Massie does, and so blunders by claiming that the Germans subjected Paris to bombardment throughout the four month siege. The postponement of that bombardment until the final weeks was crucial.

No less serious is the failure to convey any sense of the relative weight to be attached to different factors which eventually led to war. He gives no reasons for the sense of inevitability which pervaded the chancelleries in July 1914. At decisive junctures, he often merely quotes the eyewitness

account of more or less biased participants — and leaves the untutored reader to decide whom to believe. Cinematic technique rather than logic sometimes takes over. Apart from his pectinarian of the seductive ult of seapower, ideas play little part. That is a defensible interpretation of events, but Massie assumes it.

Such complacency would appear in another light if Massie's erudition were less patchy. He knows enough to have written an account of the Anglo-German naval antagonism; but he has skimped the prodigious reading that would be required for the far more ambitious task he has undertaken. Not only does he ignore German scholarship but a number of the best monographs in English too. I cannot help feeling that Massie might have found a tighter structure for his book if he had absorbed, say, A. J. Taylor's *The Struggle for Mastery in Europe* or James Joll's *The Origins of the First World War*, neither of which appear in the bibliography or notes.

None of *Dreadnought*'s terrors spoils Massie's achievement in boiling down great quantities of diplomatic and naval history into a single volume. Apart from Barbara Tuchman, Massie is no competitor in this field. His book will be widely read, and deservedly so, despite its minor slips. But Massie ranges broadly rather than penetrating deeply. An opportunity has been missed.



H. M. S. Dreadnought, Fisher's answer to the German High Seas Fleet, in 1907

## Neurotic Pooter meets anarchic pornographer

**Sean French**

**WE ALL LIVE IN A HOUSE CALLED INNOCENCE**  
by Nigel Watts  
Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99

involves food) but an improvised version, involving sex with another woman. This episode turns out disastrously for James, when Ruth leaves him in favour of the other partner, a lesbian called Wendy. And these are only James's exterior problems. He is also tormented by confused sexual longings, an inability to love, an incapacity for friendship. His sense of guilt has various sources, from his brutal Catholic boarding school, still a potent influence, to the memory of his dead mother to whom he was unable to offer consolation in her final illness.

This last theme is the least

convincing in the book and, since the author is at pains to insist (on the dustjacket) that he is not a Catholic, it might have been better if Watts had left it where he found it — in James Joyce's *Ulysses*. But the rest of James Morrison's interior life is portrayed with

uncanny skill, a mélange of sexual speculation and frantic observation of the world around him. An obvious comparison is with the scatological monologues that make up a Martin Amis' like *Money* or *The Rachel Papers*, ghostly presences that have haunted the work of so many young British novelists since the early seventies. James's detailed and disgusted descriptions of his own sexual acts owe a good deal to those novels but the difference, surprising as it may seem, is that Watts's hero remains welcomingly realistic, an ordinary obsessive, a neurotic Mr Pooter with the

filtering superego removed.

James's unfocused hostility against women, work, other races and the world in general, which of course is really a hatred of himself, forms the bulk of the book and is, comparatively, the easy bit. The difficult bit is in the final sections when James grows up, struggles to make a new relationship work, to realise his destiny as a writer, and to express love for a woman who comes to seem, for all his rebellious veneer, a bit too much of a Tiny Tim. And indeed there is something thoroughly Victorian about the big emotions at the expansive prose that Watts ships up at the novel's climax, when James emerges from his cysals as a spokesman for the post-feminist New Age.

I must confess that I preferred him in his tormented, unconstructed state, but then so, I suspect, did Nigel Watts.



## Balkan state of self-delusion

Both sides are convinced they have won, writes Anne McElvoy in Zagreb

President Tudjman's gleaming blue bullet-proof BMW took up most of the parking space outside the main door of Zagreb's grandiose Esplanade Hotel, so the rest of us had to deposit our mud-spattered hire cars elsewhere and walk inside. The Croatian leader was in effusive mood, drinking local wines while the ballroom pianist dinked away at national folk songs on the grand piano.

He bid us a lofty good evening and said no, he would rather not do interviews tonight: he was having a quiet celebration with friends and colleagues. There were no doubts about the reason for the president's new poise. This was the confident bonhomie of a man who thinks he has won. And if some pulling governments have granted Croatia recognition only reluctantly, he can at least take comfort from the unbattered alacrity with which the Germans opened their Zagreb embassy yesterday.

There are no gastronomic celebrations for President Milosevic in Belgrade, however. He has limited his public appearances to a minimum in the last few weeks. When he is spotted arriving at a meeting, his lips are set in his habitual grimace. However, in the looking-glass world of the Balkans, appearance frequently contradicts reality. For as unpalatable as the conclusion may be, it is Serbia not Croatia that stands to gain from the end of the contest at this point.

President Milosevic's political acumen has been beyond doubt recently. He gauged correctly the panic which gripped President Tudjman in the run of military defeats before Christmas and which led him to agree to a United Nations deployment even though this sealed the loss of territories taken by the army and Serb irregulars. He also realised that war weariness was setting in at home after six months' fighting.

His personal victory is the reawakening of Serb confidence, nourished by rhetoric of a nation cheated by history of its right to self-assertion. This has provided a figleaf for a war of territorial conquest, the army's strategy being to establish the borders of that mythical beast, Greater Serbia.

The advance of the Serbian-led forces has obliged Croatia to concede control of a third of its territory. Enclaves in Croatia which have been seized by indigenous Serbs and which will have UN troops in them — such as the Krajina region — are now *de facto* detached from Croatia. If not annexed to Serbia. The two nations are still in the grip of the perverse bond which measures one side's contentment by the other's misery.

The conquered Baranja region of eastern Slavonia has already been filled with Serbs. Serbian refugees are being taken to Vukovar and offered a choice of houses there — providing they can find a suitable home intact among

the ruins. President Tudjman's notion that Croatian refugees will swarm back into these areas, so leaving the Serb dominance, is naive. Even with UN protection, they will remain eternally violent, vengeful places. How many ordinary Croats would risk the hostile atmosphere of the conquered territories? Some, doubtless, but not enough to restore Croatian influence, let alone sovereignty over the areas.

Rhetoric and reality are still poles apart. The Croatian leader declares that he will regain "every inch of our territory", even though he knows that the country is militarily incapable of doing so for the foreseeable future.

The new Croatia is independent but economically shattered. Zagreb makes no secret of its reliance upon German help to rebuild the country, but this may well prove to be yet another case of over-heated expectations. Germany has a long-term economic interest in the region, but with its present domestic reconstruction to finance, it is less interested than some think in footing Croatia's bills.

President Milosevic, for his part, has the unenviable task of supporting an overblown Yugoslav national army which has no home left to go to and which will expect an easy living as its pay-off for fighting Serbia's proxy war in Croatia.

He also has the Serbian leaders in Croatia to deal with, miniature versions of himself in their ambition and ruthlessness. They are unhappy with the deal done by Belgrade over their heads, and are unwilling to disarm. President Milosevic taught them to wield their strength for his cause: now they are threatening to turn on him. Mr Babic, the terrifying former dentist who rules the Krajina region, has threatened that the quarrel with Serbia over peacekeepers there could end in "blood and pain".

Croatia and Serbia are both set to emerge from this war proud, poor and full of self-deception about a glorious and prosperous future awaiting them. Serbia is the short-term victor, with an unpromising future as a retrograde backward malcontent in the 21st century. Geography, attitude and old alliances should eventually secure Croatia's place on the sunny side of history.

Between now and then there will be other conflicts: the diversion of mortar and rocket warfare into terrorism and perhaps guerrilla war, wrangles over Bosnia, Macedonia and Kosovo, even strife in Serbia itself. But for now, the war-weary people on both sides set their sights on the present ceasefire holding long enough to allow another 9,500 peacekeepers to join the 50,000 already there on Tuesday. If this minor miracle is achieved in the coming weeks, the fighting will be at an end. A Balkan peace, however, remains a long way off.



Milosevic: short-term victor, long-term loser

Presentation rather than substance divides the parties over the NHS, says Jeremy Laurance

## Healthy statistics

tion and minimising problems with the hugely complex task of invoicing.

The funding of health authorities has also been generous compared with earlier years, and health authorities expect to show a small surplus by the end of the year. Extra money has been targeted at waiting lists, the most politically sensitive gauge of NHS performance. Compared with the winter of 1987-8, when ward closures and the cancellation of some children's heart operations panicked the government into injecting an extra £100 million and announcing the NHS review, the winter of 1991-2 has been calm.

Even among GPs, who are widely regarded as the most unpredictable element in the reforms package, the changes appear to be going unexpectedly well. A report on the new GP fundholders by the Independent King's Fund next month will say that fears of a two-tier service

disadvantaging patients of non-fundholders have been greatly exaggerated. But the GP fundholders too are a self-selected elite group.

The one problem area that was likely to blow up in the government's face — London — has been successfully neutralised. The Tomlinson enquiry into the provision of health services in London has defused this dangerous issue at least until after the election.

But to conclude on the basis of this week's optimistic government report on the first six months of the reforms that everything in the NHS is rosy would be a serious mistake. As Archy Kirkwood, the Liberal Democrats' health spokesman, stressed on Tuesday, it could be five years before we know how well the reforms are really working. Governments around the world are grappling with the problem of how to bridge the gap between what modern health care could do with unlimited resources

and what they can afford to spend. Britain is unlikely to have all the answers.

Still the reforms have already ushered in a deep cultural change in the NHS that is significant and probably permanent. The separation of the health authority purchaser of care from the hospital provider has switched the emphasis from a hospital-based service to a patient-based service, from the maintenance of institutions to the provision of services to people.

Surveys show enormous enthusiasm among health authority managers and public health specialists for this aspect of the reforms, which has given them more power over how money is spent even before the market has taken effect. One chief executive of a self-governing hospital even phoned *The Times* to trumpet the achievements of his hospital in cutting waiting lists. Such an outbreak of local pride would have been unthinkable two years ago.

The logic of the new system is that institutions matter only to the extent that they can provide the required services at the agreed price. The pre-eminence of the hospitals within the NHS is in decline, a trend which the reforms will accelerate.

All political parties now subscribe to some notion of dividing responsibility for providing it, but there is disagreement over the method. The government favours the market, Labour the planned allocation of funds with a performance-related element. In practice, the gap between these two positions is narrower than it might appear.

There will always be competition for scarce resources, and there may be little to choose between highly regulated competition in the market and planned competition among NHS boards. But the battle over the health service is now about presentation, rather than content. It is about winning elections. The government has succeeded in changing the tone of the debate within the health service — but it has yet to convince a sceptical electorate.

## Spreading the word

Bernard Levin on saturation selling by a company that wouldn't be cowed

I had a wonderful time, as indeed did the entire nation, with the magnificent tale of the substance, now a household word in more senses than one, that was made to be spread on bread, and in the end spread much mirth as well. For the benefit of anyone just arrived from the moon, I shall outline the plot.

Van den Bergh, the huge food conglomerate, invented a new kind of vegetable fat made with buttermilk (in proper language, margarine). They named it cheekily, subtly, wickedly, nod-and-winkily (strike out whichever does not apply) — *I Can't Believe It's Not Butter*. The company, naturally eager to launch its new product, booked television advertising time, only to be told by whomever controls these matters, in this case the Independent Television Commission ("Beware of anyone who calls himself a Commission" — ancient Chinese proverb) that they could not advertise on television because the nation, faced with a substance called *I Can't Believe It's Not Butter* would instantly conclude that it WAS butter. Thus do our masters declare, to our very faces, that we are to be treated as though we are as stupid as our masters apparently are. (The ukase came from the EC, which seeks to prohibit any use of the word "butter" in any television advertisement other than one that is actually advertising the butter, the whole butter and nothing but the butter, and if I were not afraid of being sued for libel, I would robustly declare in this very parenthesis that the entire EC staff in Brussels must have been bribed sily by the butter interests.)

Balked of their prey — an advertising campaign on television — Van den Bergh withdrew into its cave and took counsel with itself. When it emerged, it was to be seen smiling all over its face, and no wonder. For not only has the newspaper advertising campaign, which was substituted for the rejected TV one, been one of the finest and most brilliant advertising series this country has ever

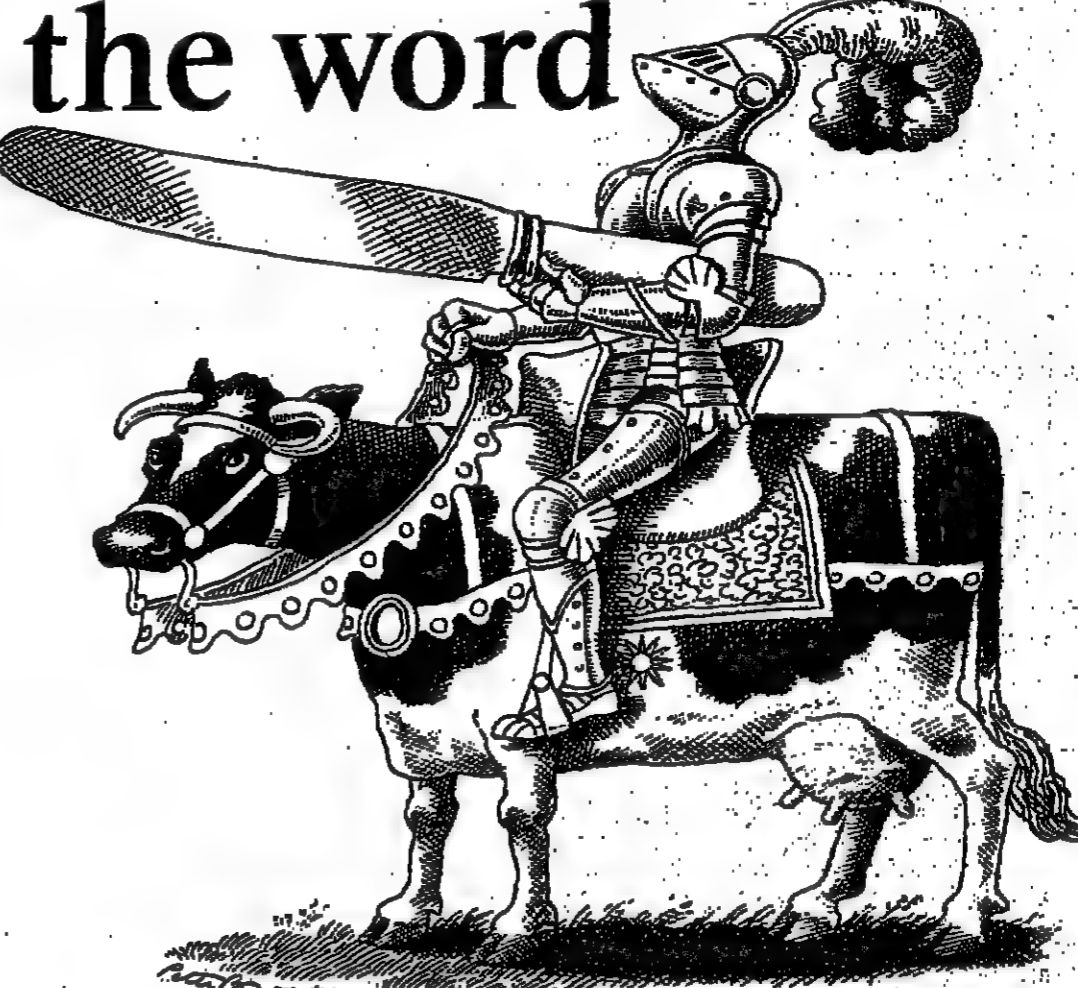
seen, but it seems that housewives have been stabbing and shooting one another to get to the grocery counter, and already of shop assistants have been crushed to death by crazed buyers of the succulent spread.

Let us dwell for a moment on the campaign itself. If I had invented a new jam, say (I am very fond of jam), and was thinking of launching it with some suitable advertising, I would hasten to sign up the advertising agency in charge of the *I Can't Believe It's Not Butter* campaign, and give them the accounts. Fortnum & Mason would be on the ropes in three weeks. The wit, charm and gaiety with which the ads bombarded the enemy day after day was a delight, and if there are awards in the advertising industry (there must be, surely), this campaign should carry off the lot.

The theme of the ads was "They tried to stop us, but we beat them," balanced with "They were afraid of us." These shafts have been deployed with considerable ingenuity, picking one at random, I found (the advertisement took a whole page of broadsheet) a huge running headline, filling three-quarters of the space, with "They'd love to stop us using a certain word. But they can't stop the word spreading." Tucked into the letterpress is a packet of the argued-over substance with a hand covering the word "butter" in the title of the product.

As for the final quarter of the page, with the details of the stuff, I think it is worth quoting in full, double-entendres and all.

Far be it from us to name names. But some people (including a certain food lobby) want us to cut out "butter" from our name altogether. Could it be they're afraid of a little healthy competition? After all, "I Can't Believe It's Not Butter" is high in polyunsaturates, low in saturates and contains virtually no cholesterol. Or is it a question of taste? You see, our vegetable fat spread is made with buttermilk. It has a fresh, butter-like taste that's proving rather popular. So popular, indeed, word about it's been spreading like wildfire. But why take our word for



it? Take a pack home, spread it on, and tuck in. If it doesn't live up to its name, we'll eat our words.

Look at the half-conscious puns, the infuriating nose-thumbing at the enemy, the big guns of what healthy things it contains: no wonder the product has been so successful.

Here, I must declare an interest, albeit upside-down. I am a butter man, and the creamier the better. I do not give a fig, much less a half-pound packet, for a substance which proclaims, however truthfully, that it is high in polyunsaturates and low in saturates: I eat half a hundredweight of saturates a week, and wouldn't have a polyunsaturate in the house.

Nevertheless, I can see excellence when I read it, and when I do, I cheer, nor do I much mind whose ears are affronted when I do so. For there is more to this story than the turning of tables.

The food-worshippers, a breed hardly less irritating than the drink-worshippers, have cowed a great num-

ber of people and institutions with their bullying, their fanaticism, their nose-parking, their suspect statistics and above all their smugness. They must have had a wonderful time when the Van den Bergh ads were banned, and must have practically choked on the success of the substituted campaign, even though they would include the disputed substance in the things we should eat instead of butter.

Well, sometimes justice triumphs over the unrighteous, and this is one of the times. When the Van den Bergh campaign paused, the newspaper industry picked up the *I Can't Believe It's Not Butter* advertisement and kept it going, to good effect, in its own campaign to persuade advertisers to use the papers more and television less. At this vital level, butter and *I Can't Believe It's Not Butter* join hands to rout the wowers; if you want butter, have

it, and if you want *I Can't Believe It's Not Butter*, have that. The only, but crucial, test is: are you eating what you like the taste of?

The enemy always says No: that is how you recognise that it is the enemy. When I heard about the banned advertisement, my immediate conclusion was that it was certainly admirable and very likely useful as well. Whether I was right is not what matters; the important lesson is always to be ready for another incursion by the enemy, and always be ready to push the enemy back. And we have pushed him back: the pestilent commission has backed down, and the ads are now free for use on television.

Come let us get up a charabanc-party for a visit to the Abbey of Thelama, with its tremendous and heartening motto: *Fay ce que Voudras*. "Do what you wish." And a raspberry for that hypocritical proto-wower in Alice Through the Looking-Glass.

The Carpenter said nothing, but "The butter's spread too thick."



...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

As each innovation turns from luxury into necessity and then, slowly but surely, into relic. It behoves the columnist to lament its passing. I feel sure that, as their time passed, the 78 record, the quill pen, the outside loo, the car-trunk, the clog, the gallows, whooping-cough and even the platform heel were all mourned with great eloquence by some of Fleet Street's foremost scribes.

With the news that W.H. Smith will no longer stock LPs, other columnists have made game efforts at traditional 700-word elegies. Stripped for a closing 665 words, they have turned the obvious faults of the long playing record into advantages. I have even seen tributes to the joy of the scratch, some of them so persuasive that I have thought of setting up a lucrative CD scratching bureau, equipped with a skilled workforce, infra-red technology and a pair of sharp scissors.

Alas, these elegists have forgotten one essential aspect of the LP. With the arrival of the little CD, the expansive sleeve note will be no more. There is now space only for a basic list of tracks and performers, with maybe a very squashed set of lyrics, if sufficiently monosyllabic.

But back in the good old days, ah, things were different then. I never play my own long-playing pop records, but I love to read them. In the early 1960s, the sleeve note was brief and enthu-

siastic. My 1964 LP, *Tell 'Em I'm Surfin'* by a group improbably called the Fantastic Baggy, carries this enigmatic message from their recording manager: "You may think it is fantastic that two such young musicians could do so many things and do them well. We thought so, too. That's why we called them the Fantastic Baggy."

The sleeve notes for *A Hard Day's Night* also possess an engaging innocence. This, we are promised, is "a fabulous set of songs" and "with this album in your library, you have a collection of Beatle recordings which is comprehensive and up to date".

By 1970s, the pop sleeve note was becoming more sophisticated. The trend for double, triple or even quadruple "concept" albums, with deadly serious names such as *In the Land of Dreamy Dreams* or *Days of Future Past* meant that there was a huge amount of sleeve space to cover. Consequently, sleeve prose became both more lavish and more ornate, often printed in the ill-formed handwriting — with authentic blotches and scratches-out — of the stars themselves. Single LPs were forced to follow suit, cramming lengthy prose-poems and philosophical elucidations into every nook and cranny.

Apache poets searching thru the ruins for a glimpse of Buddha is just a part of Bob Dylan's handwritten philosophy on the sleeve of his *LP Planet Waves*. "We sensed each

other beneath the mask, pitched a tent in the street and joined the travelling circus. History became a lie."

Before long, such arty stuff became obligatory, so that buying a pop record was akin to sitting at A-level in a language no one knew. These records were usually supplemented by notes from external examiners in which the music was invariably declared a masterpiece. "The Velvet Underground are still creating what one critic once called 'some of the greatest achievements in the history of Western Music'" runs one sleeve note in my collection.

For a while it was fashionable to include God in the acknowledgements ("All thanks 2 God" writes Prince on one LP). A year or two ago, veteran rock stars were duty-bound to extend thanks to their full medical staff. On his first solo LP, the former Beach Boy Brian Wilson thanks, along with 60 others, "Dr Solomon D. Samuels who has always been there for me and has helped me become a better person". "Dr Murray Susser who guided me back to physical health and has helped me stay there" and "Dr Eugene E. Landy for saving my life and inspiring, overseeing and fighting for me and this entire album".

And now all this is to end. No more the thank-yous to God and Doc, no more the hand-written lyrics, no more the philosophical prose-poems. Why oh why? Or, to be a bit more honest, Way-hay oh way-hay!

## New state of catatonia?

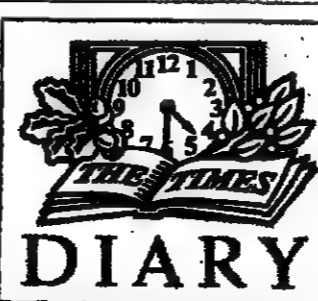
THEY were putting out the flags and popping the champagne corks last night as the London-based Croatian community celebrated recognition by Britain at a house in Chelsea. Among the members of the diplomatic corps present was the French ambassador to London. Foreign Office officials were also in attendance, although no minister turned up. A good cross-party selection of MPs did, however, join the celebrations.

It was a day the Croats had waited a long time to see, although for Drago Stambuk, the Croatian representative in London, the celebrations were still tinged with sadness. "I'm not sure who to feel with the horrors of war going on



back home. We could have prevented so much bloodshed if the EC had recognised us a year ago. But we are very happy because we have been waiting nine centuries for this announcement."

The Slovenian representative in London, Keith Miles, took the welcome call from the Foreign Office in his office at Etam plc, where in his day job he is finance



director. For Miles, who is British and married to a Slovene, it was not quite an ordinary day, however. He left work early at 3.30pm to join the celebrations. "We feel a huge sense of relief. Definitely a time to pop the odd bottle of champagne." The celebration also doubled as Miles' retirement party as Ljubljana's man in London. "After the announcement I wrote to Douglas Hurd proposing diplomatic relations, and Slovenia has already nominated Matjaz Sinkovc, chairman of its parliamentary foreign relations commission, as the ambassador. But I can't think of a better way for me to bow out."

The initiation of the "Decade of Revivalism" has been postponed, reports Britain's *Imams and Mosques Council*. They had planned to usher in the great decade next week. Alas, the chairman, M.A. Zakir Badawi has been taken ill. Fortunately the Islamic calendar is fairly flexible about these things, and the decade is due to commence next month instead — when the chairman has staged his own personal revival.

## Pulpit politics

WHILE much of the general election will be fought over the familiar battlegrounds of tax policy,

defence and the future of the health service, the campaign in Oxford West, where Home Office minister John Patten is opposed by Labour's Bruce Kent, will take on an altogether loftier aspect. Both are Roman Catholics, and Patten is suggesting that they should move away from sterile party political debate to discuss theological matters. "I am mulling up on the works of Thomas Aquinas in preparation," says Patten, who hopes a debate with his opponent can be staged during the campaign in the university church.

Patten is wise to do his homework. His Labour opponent, the former chairman of CND, who is no fan of the current Labour leadership, was a Catholic priest until 1987 when he left to devote his energies to campaigning against the government. "What an interesting proposition," says Kent. "But if the debate is going to be about the meaning of the Trinity rather than the future of Trident, I fear there will be very few constituents left in the audience."

## Russian overtures

COVENT GARDEN is to stage a royal gala to welcome back St Petersburg and the Maryinsky Theatre. Royal Opera House officials have just returned from St Petersburg where they negotiated the arrangements with the Kirov opera and ballet company, which, for the moment at least, retains the revolutionary name of the Communist Party secretary who was assassinated in 1934. The benefit gala has not been formally announced, but is scheduled for April 9.

More than 250 dancers and singers are due to fly in from St Petersburg for the occasion. "It's going to be a spectacular evening with proceeds going to help re-

furbish the beautiful Maryinsky Theatre," says a Covent Garden spokeswoman. Given the Royal Opera House's own beleaguered financial position, staging a benefit for the Maryinsky/Kirov is an act of considerable generosity. There should, however, still be something in the event for the ROH. Profits will be split between the two companies — and with grand tier seats at £500 apiece, they should be considerable.

## Home from home

THE long arm of coincidence has reached across 3,067 miles in the case of two young students from Sierra Leone currently studying in London. At home they lived no more than 500 yards apart for more than 30 years, but neither knew of the other's existence. Astonishingly both have the same surname.

Issa and Foday-Kamara met for the first time only last month, when they enrolled independently for the same course at the London School of Journalism in Notting Hill. Sadly, the fairy-tale aspect of the story breaks down, for both are married men with families. "Can't it be a fairy-tale without a love interest?" says Basil Morgan, the tutor to both men. "It is still a remarkable story and their friendship is blossoming."

So now we know where Roger Freeman got the idea for his ill-advised suggestion of "cheap and cheerful" trains to carry *Oppenheimer*. The Department of Transport files obviously go all the way back to 1839 when Charles Saunders, secretary of the Great Western Railway, told the Parliamentary transport committee that his company was proposing "to convey the very lowest orders of passengers, once a day, at very low speed in carriages of an inferior description, at a very low price".



## CHOCOLATE AND CREAM

The rail privatisation argument raging in Downing Street gets ever simpler: it is now between what is right and what is expedient. On the one side are those who wish to see BR's assets of land, track and rolling stock divided up, given a new private-sector identity and developed, as far as possible competitively. On the other are those who see the continuation of a unified industry in some form as being the line of least resistance, with a national corporation as owner of most or all the rail assets, perhaps as super-franchiser: as if the airports and civil aviation authorities were combined with much of British Airways. There are no prizes for guessing on which side are BR and its sponsors in Whitehall. They like the devil they know. But they are wrong.

Everything learnt from the experience of privatisation so far suggests that Britain's transport services should be divided into much smaller units than those they have been in since the war. The only clean and simple way of dividing up the railway is to dispose of its underlying asset, land, with a legal obligation to supply rail services over it. The vast majority of rail journeys in Britain — upwards of 90 per cent — are within the old regional boundaries of lines radiating from London and the great cities of the North: the old Great Western, LMS, LNER and Great Eastern territories. These happen to correspond to what BR terms its InterCity "subsectors". These subsectors form ideal bases for geographical privatisation (and incidentally for a compromise between at least some of today's Whitehall factions).

There is no end to the variants on such a breakup: the Southern commuter services could be split into three groups, each commercially distinct. Scotland could run (and subsidise) its own railways. A revived Great Western could subcontract its Devon and Cornwall or its Welsh Valley lines to local operators as do bus companies at present. It could franchise its Thames Valley commuter lines, or take particular pride in running better ones than commuter companies elsewhere in the Home Counties. Most companies would have access to a London terminal. Some could even be truly competitive: a Fenchurch Street company might

out-perform an East Anglian company service into Liverpool Street from Southend.

There is no reason why such companies should not negotiate subsidies either with central or local governments. This already takes place between BR and many counties and cities. Subsidy is a red herring in rail privatisation. But railway assets should not be sold to those who do not intend themselves to run the trains. If ever government wished to create a monster, it would be a "public-sector track authority", a corporation dominated by engineers, bureaucrats and unions, able to saddle train operators with what would be roughly 40 per cent of their costs at will.

Railways are a service with strongly monopolistic features, including reliance on expensive pathways. They are not like airlines or buses whose pathways are mostly free to the operator. Train operators need to be able to control all their costs, subject to safety requirements. They will supply a better service the closer they are to their customers, be they commuters, long-distance passengers or even parcels and freight users. Never, except perhaps in wartime, was there a need for this industry to be nationally owned and administered — a truth that most other countries are discovering, including those with far less efficient railways than BR.

Britain's railways have been well-prepared for privatisation. High-speed rolling stock is ordered or in place. Costs have been slashed. New markets have been tapped in what is bound to be an expanding industry. The only menace is an over-centralised bureaucracy and meddling ministers (and shadow ministers). John Major is reportedly in favour of a regional breakup. He should have the courage to stand out against the corporatist and Treasury interests that are now enveloping him in Downing Street.

Forget what the Great Western Railway may have been in its declining years; forget the Great Eastern's lack of dividends, or the Late and Never Early Railway. Think only what such companies might be in the future, properly structured, launched with enthusiasm and backed by shareholder/passengers. This is by far the most exciting privatisation of them all — if it is not rationalisation by another name.

## LIMITING LLOYD'S LOSSES

When Lloyd's of London was plagued by scandals in the 1980s, its initial reaction was to roll into a ball like a hedgehog under threat, hoping the scandals would go away. It eventually acceded to the tougher regulation against fraud imposed on it by the Lloyd's Act. But it refused to modernise its other archaic working practices. As long as decent profits were being made (they broke records) and new members were joining the market (they clamoured to be admitted), Lloyd's saw no need to. Only now that members are queuing up to leave has Lloyd's at last conceded that radical change there must be. But if the conversion stems from a commercial rather than a moral imperative, it is none the less welcome.

The task force that reported its proposals for reform yesterday was set up by Lloyd's as a response to the dwindling of the market's capital due to heavy underwriting losses and the expected flight of its members. Lloyd's underpins its insurance underwriting business with money pledged by members (known as names). The attribution of names, a few even facing personal bankruptcy, looks serious: around 4,000 last year out of a total of 26,500 have decided to pull out. Membership of Lloyd's used to carry a cachet; now it is seen by some as a hideous liability. One family of four members has been faced with a £500,000 bill, and there is worse to come.

The way the market works now, names are given far less information about the risks they are underwriting than ordinary shareholders, even though they stand to lose far more. Shareholders can lose only the money they paid for the shares themselves. But the unlimited liability under which Lloyd's operates means that names can lose everything they possess, down to their shirts and cuff-links.

How was Lloyd's allowed to get away with such secrecy for so long? The fault lies at least

partly with the names themselves. For too many years, they thought they had discovered the City equivalent of a free lunch. Like property speculators in the housing boom of the 1980s, they saw Lloyd's as a one-way bet. In return merely for promising to put money into their syndicates if ever it was needed in order to cover an annual loss, they earned a steady income and provided the insurance market was in profit, they could invest the same money elsewhere. For 21 consecutive years, Lloyd's as a whole made a profit. Members' pledges were hardly ever called in, so the money worked twice over for them. Their Lloyd's income was icing to go on top of the interest their money earned from other investments. As long as this money pump worked, they were disinclined to question the market's mechanisms.

Now that members are having to write cheques rather than bank them, they are starting to face up to the grave implications of unlimited liability. They are demanding more information about the syndicates they are backing. The task force report will provide little succour to those hit by the present losses; its proposals will not come into force until the underwriting year of 1993 at the earliest. But if all members, as suggested, then subscribe to a stop-loss scheme to limit their liability to a fixed sum, and if the less wealthy names are forced to spread their risks over a number of syndicates, the next downturn in the insurance cycle will lead to more containable losses.

Markets go down as well as up. That is one of the inescapable features of capitalism. But so, regrettably, is the refusal of many investors to learn from the past. If the risk faced by names can be limited in future, at least some personal tragedies will be avoided. By bringing its standards of disclosure in line with those in other financial markets, Lloyd's of London, once the pride of the City, may once again be seen as a great British asset.

## DIPLOMATIC INFLATION

The European Community's recognition of Slovenia and Croatia will give an immediate boost to house prices in Ljubljana and Zagreb as officials from a dozen foreign ministries scour the towns for suitable embassy premises. This promises to be an expensive year for the world's diplomatic corps. With the break-up of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union two countries have, in little over four months, effectively divided into 21, almost all clamouring for recognition and for resident ambassadors.

The EC's largest member, with cash to spare and new muscles to flex, is happy to oblige: Germany could hardly wait to hoist its flag and affix its crest above the doors of its new embassies. But Ireland and Luxembourg will be hard-pressed to find the resources for one more embassy, let alone another 19.

Britain also has little cash to spare. The thrust of Treasury-dictated retrenchment in recent years has been to withdraw from countries where a physical presence on the ground makes little sense, politically or commercially. Making a virtue out of necessity, the Foreign Office is now suggesting its diplomats should ride piggy-back in parts of the former Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union. Of all Britain's EC partners, Germany is the most receptive to giving the British Foreign Office a lift.

Sharing embassies in far corners of the world is not a new idea. The French and Germans had grandiose plans a decade ago

for a joint mission in Ulan Bator, an outpost so remote that it is said one British ambassador used to go down to the station every week to meet the train from Moscow in case anyone interesting was on it. Unfortunately the Quai d'Orsay discovered at the last minute that the Franco-German scheme, involving a joint diplomatic staff, was unconstitutional as only a French citizen can represent the French president.

Nor is it uncommon for embassies to help friends who are underrepresented: Britain's embassy in Angola is of particular importance because there is no American representation. After the Gulf war it was Soviet embassy officers in Baghdad who visited British citizens in prison. Current proposals go further, and involve pooling buildings, infrastructure, transport and even consular services — though obviously not trade promotion as long as EC members compete for business.

This makes sense, but is very different from establishing European Community embassies. Such a step, in the absence of a common foreign policy far more developed than that agreed at Maastricht, is nonsensical. That would imply a fully federal EC union, with an integrated EC diplomatic service, while the shared facilities now proposed to keep costs down in Yugoslavia and the Commonwealth of Independent States are a pragmatic step towards greater co-operation. Walking before running is the right way forward from Maastricht.

## Parliament and the right to silence

From Lord Young of Graffham

Sir, I appeared before a select committee in 1982, within a few days of being appointed chairman of the Manpower Services Commission. Over the remainder of the decade I appeared from time to time before the public accounts, the trade and industry and the employment committees. I developed a healthy respect for the work of them all, even if I were to end profoundly disagreeing with the trade and industry committee's report on Rover.

At their best the committees perform an excellent check on departments and the actions of ministers and civil servants. They can, and do, investigate gaps in our legislation and practice. Out of their work comes the impetus for reform. They should investigate the conduct of pension funds to ensure that the regrettable events of the recent past do not recur, and make recommendations. But there is a limit.

I have to take issue with Lord St John of Fawley in his article today, headed "There is no right to silence", dealing with the refusal of the Maxwell brothers to testify to the social security committee. He cannot argue that because charges have not been laid they cannot claim the benefit of the *sub judice* rule.

If that were the case, why are so many inspectors' reports held up until it is clear that there will not be any prosecution? How can he guarantee that evidence in camera would remain confidential, until any trial? What is at stake here is the right of the individual to a fair trial: what is at risk is the emergence of trial by public opinion.

Let the committee investigate pension funds. Let it produce a report and if action is required then time should be found for the necessary legislation. But let the administration of justice be the prerogative of the courts. That is what *Magna Carta* was all about.

Yours,  
LORD YOUNG,  
House of Lords,  
January 15.

From Lord Shawcross, QC

Sir, I respectfully agree with Lord St John of Fawley. A great deal of nonsense has been talked about the so-called "basic constitutional right" to silence. There is no such thing.

The practice in the criminal courts arose from the 18th-century rule that a defendant was not allowed to give evidence in his own defence. If it ever had any ethical foundation it has not now and has simply become part of the practice which treats criminal trials as a kind of game in which the object is not, as in most foreign jurisdictions, to discover what the

## Breast-cancer drug trial

From the Secretary of the Medical Research Council

Sir, The accusations of delay in deciding whether to fund the proposed trial of tamoxifen in the prevention of breast cancer in women judged to be at high risk (article, "Time to save lives", January 2) are ill-founded.

The trial would involve the administration of a drug on a daily basis to healthy women — so those taking the drug will be reminded daily that they are at risk. The psychological effects of this need to be taken into account. The trial also raised a number of complex ethical and other scientific issues which needed to be properly considered and debated before it was launched.

The proposal was submitted to the Medical Research Council in January 1991 and considered by the relevant committees at their next meeting in the spring. The council considered that the trial should include an evaluation of the effects on quality of life and a cost-benefit analysis of introducing the treatment. A revised proposal was considered in the autumn and was judged not to deal adequately with these

## Patients in waiting

From Mr D. L. Crosby

Sir, Dr Andrew Baker's difficulties (letter, January 1) in obtaining the emergency admission to hospital of very ill patients are highly disturbing and quite unacceptable in a modern health service. None should disagree that urgent action is necessary to rectify the situation he describes.

However, I question his suggestion that our European partners enjoy better health-care systems, and that by increased funding we might emulate them. Ours is the only country which has well developed primary health care, by which the entire population has free and open access to caring general practitioners like Dr Baker.

Also, few who have experienced the

real truth is but to ascertain objective truth in so far as the parties care or choose to present it, the function of the judge being that of an umpire to see that each side observes the rules and answer the question "howzat?"

Ordinary citizens — and in the present instance the members of the House of Commons — who are not too steeped in ancient and outworn legal rules should make up their own minds whether these rules are in any way necessary for the protection of the innocent. Because it is the innocent whom we must protect: our duty towards the guilty is to ensure fairness and justice. And as I have repeatedly said, the innocent and injured as well as the guilty are also entitled to fairness and justice.

That great and famous criminal judge, Mr Justice Stephen, took the view that the right to silence is inimical to justice. And the most famous liberal law reformer, Jeremy Bentham, called the rule against self-incrimination one of the most pernicious and irrational rules that has ever found its way into the human mind... if all criminals of every class had assembled and framed a system after their own wishes, is not this rule the very first they would have established for their own security? Innocence claims the right of speaking, as guilt invokes the privilege of silence.

The idea that Parliament would be violating some sacred constitutional principle if they insisted upon trying to ascertain the truth is simply legal hyperbole.

Yours truly,  
SHAWCROSS,  
House of Lords,  
January 15.

From Mr Richard Ritchie

Sir, Lord St John of Fawley argues eloquently in favour of Parliament's right to jeopardise the chances of Messrs Kevin and Ian Maxwell receiving a fair trial.

One might have more sympathy for his argument if Parliament had not already surrendered so many of its powers to the European Community. The House of Commons cannot have it both ways. If it chooses to transfer its authority to external bodies, it must expect to lose its privileges — and the respect in which it is held — in the process.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD RITCHIE,  
36 Dault Road,  
Wandsworth, SW18.

From Mr David H. Walton

Sir, Am I unduly cynical in believing that Robert Maxwell has been tried and his sons found guilty?

Yours truly,  
DAVID WALTON,  
10 St Guthrie's Close,  
Crowland, Lincolnshire.

issues. An expert group will be meeting the applicants shortly to resolve the remaining problems.

The council also wanted further consideration to be given to the ethical aspects of the trial. As your article says, the group appointed by the council to advise on these matters has now reported. However, the proposed use of tamoxifen as an agent for prevention of breast cancer has not yet received the necessary approval from the regulatory authority. Any MRC funding would of course depend on that being given.

Our careful consideration of the ethics and the design of the trial and the associated studies — necessary to ensure that a clear outcome in terms of benefits, risks and costs will be obtained — have not contributed to the delay.

As your article rightly says, more women die of breast cancer in the UK than in any other country. Hence our concern to give full consideration to all the issues raised by the trial before it gets under way.

Yours sincerely,  
DAI REES, Secretary,  
Medical Research Council,  
20 Park Crescent, W1,  
January 8.

financial penalties and uneven quality of health care in other countries remain doubts about the superiority of our own National Health Service. Indeed, discussion at Maastricht about a European health service on the lines of our own would have been just as pertinent as all the turmoil over the social charter.

The NHS is far from perfect and needs to be more efficient as well as better funded. But it would be wrong to conclude that other countries have obtained better health care provision simply because they spend more money on it.

Yours faithfully,  
D. L. CROSBY  
(Consultant surgeon),  
University Hospital of Wales,  
Heath Park, Cardiff.

## Prayer neglect

From Mr C. A. A. Kilminster

Sir, The comparative neglect of the Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving set out in the Book of Common Prayer to be used on the anniversary of the sovereign's accession was discussed recently by leaders of the Prayer Book movement (letters, January 11). It was claimed that some bishops have, in recent years, been unwilling to commend the service for use in parish churches. Even some of our cathedrals are neglectful too.

As this year marks the 40th anniversary of the accession the Prayer Book Society is urging all members of the Church of England to use whatever influence they have to bring about the use of these prayers on the actual anniversary (February 6) and on the following Sunday also.

This would be the best possible way for the nation to respond to the appeal of the Queen herself, during her Christmas broadcast, for the prayerful support of all her people.

Yours faithfully,  
C. A. A. KILMINSTER (Chairman),  
The Prayer Book Society,  
St James Garlickhythe,  
Garlick Hill, EC4.

## Getting tough with the polluters

From Mr Jeff Rooker, MP for Perry Barr (Labour)

Sir, It is good news for all concerned with industrial safety and environmental matters to read in *The Times* (report, January 13) of the attitude of Dr David Slater, the Director of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, as set out in the tough guidelines he has sent his local inspectors.

The weapon of publicity is an important means of ensuring the top management of a company at boardroom level take these issues seriously. Today, in *Law Times*, Henry Wincomb sets out the background to my private member's Bill on Corporate Safety and Environmental Information, which is down for second reading on Friday.

It is a great pity that on returning to the Commons this week I have been informed by Department of Trade and Industry minister, John Redwood, that his department is unable to support my Bill and sees no value in any discussion. I still at this point do not know the view of the Department of the Environment which, as expounded by ministers in the past, has been that companies should tell the world about their performance on these issues and not just their policy via the annual report to shareholders.

My Bill does not cost the taxpayer a penny and there is abundant evidence that companies more and more wish to use the annual report and their "green" policies for public relations exercises but stop short of wanting to tell shareholders, employees and the wider public about their actual performance. Dr Slater needs all the help he can get. I hope the government will not block my Bill and seek to give Parliament the opportunity to assist Dr Slater and those members of top management who want to take these issues really seriously.

Yours,  
JEFF ROOKER,  
House of Commons,  
January 14.

## Planning for Olympics

From Dr Rod Hackney

Sir, The suggestion which the president of the Royal Institute of British Architects made (letter, December 21) for a design panel for the Manchester Olympic bid should be supported. Although some of the competitors already have design panels well in place and indeed have architects and planners as part of their main committees, in Brazil, Berlin, Beijing and Istanbul, Manchester has an advantage in that it has been consulting with good local architects, both during this bid and the previously failed bid when Atlanta succeeded.

In Japan, when Atlanta was chosen against what many saw as the favourite, Athens, it was clear from the six competitors that this was no longer a matter solely of sport but one that encompassed design, town planning, job opportunity and job creation and economic revitalisation: all attributes that Manchester could take advantage of in its bid for the Olympic Games in 2000.

Public relations, presentation and lobbying of world leaders are also part of the process and it is good to see the prime minister taking the first steps in associating himself with this

## Heritage appointment

From Mr Jocelyn Stevens

Sir, In the course of my interview with Simon Tait (report and article, January 15) we did indeed have a brief word about my impending appointment as chairman of English Heritage.

Contrary to the views I apparently expressed, I am finding as I get to know English Heritage that there is evidence of a great willingness to face up to tough economic decisions and to solve the organisational problems inevitably associated with the administration of a major national public body with a role that touches so many people's lives.

Everyone at English Heritage is aware that it has an "image" problem. Given that, the management and the staff in no way deserve all of the criticisms that your correspondent attributed to me.

Yours etc.,  
JOCELYN STEVENS,  
English Heritage,  
Forsyth House,  
23 Savile Row, W1.

## Weighing in

From Mr John H. Dover

Sir, Professor Birley's letter (January 13) reminds me of an occasion in the early Fifties when my late father, who was rather portly, my mother, my nine-year-old younger brother and I were travelling by British European Airways to Majorca and the baggage was somewhat overweight.

My father, being of a negotiating turn of mind, asked whether an allowance ought not to be made for the low weight of the small children. "Certainly sir", came the reply, "provided we may make an appropriate excess charge for yourself".

Yours faithfully,  
J. H. DOVER,  
9 Greenhill Avenue,  
Giffnock, Glasgow.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

From Mrs Ann Taylor, MP for Dewsbury (Labour)

Sir, Michael McCarthy reports that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution is resolved to increase the number of prosecutions of polluting companies. An increase in prosecutions is of course to be welcomed, given the inspectorate's marked reluctance to take polluters to court, preferring instead the gentle art of persuasion.

But the principle of making the polluter pay cannot be allowed to be seen as the inspectorate granting "licences to pollute". The fines in recent months have been derisory, and do little to genuinely deter companies from polluting our land, air and water.

Many companies have failed even to register under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and local authorities have no extra funds from central government to carry out their responsibilities to the environment under the Act.

The principle of the polluter pays will not work if fines for pollution are seen by companies as a mild inconvenience, and represent a tiny percentage of the annual turnover. In these circumstances, a fine may be seen as a price worth paying, in order to avoid investment in clean technologies, environmental auditing, and cleaning up a company's overall performance.

Pollution control must include a rigorous system of deterrence for polluters, to make polluting production methods more costly than the environmental best option, and must have a genuinely integrated control system which only an environmental protection executive, as proposed by Labour for many years, will provide.

Yours sincerely,  
ANN TAYLOR  
(Shadow minister for environmental protection),  
House of Commons,  
January 13.

## British bid (report, Sport, December 17)

Of those Tokyo finalists Belgrade failed simply because it could not present an economically viable case. Toronto failed because of the stigma associated with the huge debt attached to the Montreal Olympics; Melbourne, which probably had the best architectural scheme, could not overcome the isolationism of the Australian bid. Athens failed miserably in not appreciating the need to have decent security at its airport and rested its whole case on historic proceedings, which were not enough.

Atlanta, through Andrew Young, its former mayor and at one time the US ambassador to the United Nations, was able to present the case for black America and steal the show with a presentation that left many aghast at its audacity. It included a choir of youngsters epitomising the opportunity for inner-city revival if the Olympics came to Atlanta, and indeed they will in 1996.

Manchester learned a lot from that trial run. It can now win if it gets the support.

Yours faithfully,  
ROD HACKNEY,  
St Peter's House, Windmill Street,  
Macclesfield, Cheshire,  
January 10.

## Port entry delays

From Mr Robert H. Foster

Sir, During the course of a recent car journey to Switzerland and back, I crossed from one country to another on six occasions. At the first five frontiers, the delay was one minute or less. At the sixth, re-entry on January 4 into England at Dover, it took 38 minutes to cover the 400 yards from ship's gangplank to having our passports checked.

From experience I can say that this is about the average time, but of course the time taken by those further behind in the six queues of traffic would be longer. Having just endured a long journey to the Channel, and facing another one in this country, little could be more frustrating.

Surely, in the year 1992, those responsible for controlling entry into the UK through the Channel ports should bring their procedures into line with those which have long obtained throughout the rest of Western Europe. Some of the advantage of the Channel tunnel will be lost next year if it takes 35 minutes to travel from Calais to Folkestone and then an equivalent time before one can get on the move again.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT H. FOSTER,  
Winterburn Grange,  
Nr Skipton, North Yorkshire,  
January 6.

## Short journeys

From Mr J. M. Batten

Sir, If Roger Freeman, the transport minister, regularly used public transport (reports, January 11, 14), he would know that British Rail has already introduced a cheap and cheerful service for typists and people under five feet tall and 12 inches wide — it's called Thameslink.

Yours faithfully,  
J. M. BATTEN,  
5 South View, Bromley, Kent,  
January 14.

Business letters, page 25  
Sports letters, page 28

Handwritten signature: John H. Dover



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
January 15: The Prince Edward, Trustee, today gave a lunch for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
January 15: This afternoon The Princess Royal, Chancellor of the University of London, attended the Presentation Day Ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall and was received by the Chief Executive (Mr Patrick Deuchar).

This evening Her Royal Highness, Member of the Court of Assistants, the Worshipful Company of Woolmen, attended the

Livery Dinner at Painters' Hall, Little Trinity Lane, London EC4. Mrs Andrew Felden was in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
January 15: The Princess of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Hampshire Regiment, received Brigadier Robert Long, Colonel of the Regiment, at Kensington Palace.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Aids Trust, attended a Board Meeting at Euston Tower, 286 Euston Road, London NW1. Mr Patrick Jephson was in attendance.

## Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the London Symphony Chorus, will attend the Beethoven concert at the Barbican Centre at 7.30. The Princess Royal, as President of the Save the Children Fund, will open Ross Young's new factory in Grimsby at 11.15. As Patron of the Butler Trust, will visit HMP Lincoln at 2.30, and, as President of the British Olympic Association, will attend a fundraising concert at the City Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne, at 7.40.

## University news

## Lancaster

**Promotions**  
Dr K.J. Beven, Reader in the Environmental Science Division, to a personal Chair in Hydrology and Fluid Dynamics.  
Dr W.J. Davies, Reader in the Biological Sciences Division to a personal Chair in Environmental Physiology.  
Dr J.G. Bremner, Senior Lecturer in the Psychology Department, to a Readership in Developmental Psychology.  
Dr J.H. Brooke, Senior Lecturer in the History Department, to a Readership in the History of Science.  
Dr K.C. Jones, Lecturer in the Environmental Science Division, to a Readership in Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology.  
Mr R.N. East, Senior Lecturer in the Philosophy Department, to a Readership in Social Philosophy.  
Dr J.S. Redwell, Director of the Unit of Vegetation Science, to be Honorary Reader in the Biological Sciences Division.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr P.M. Bertin and Miss A.M. Normand**  
The engagement is announced between Piers Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs D.P. Bertin, of Bletchingley, Surrey, and Alison Mary, elder daughter of Professor and Mrs I.C.S. Normand, of Winchester.

**Mr A.A.M. Buckham and Miss R. Long**  
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs A.H. Buckham, of Cardew, Alresford, Hampshire, and Rebecca, elder daughter of Carol Long, of Kensington, London, and the late Levin Cohen.

**Mr G. Chervakov and Miss K. Smallwood**  
The engagement is announced between Gerald, younger son of Dr and Mrs L. Chervakov, of Lowell, Massachusetts, and Kate, younger daughter of Mr Guy Smallwood, of Child Okeford, Dorset, and the late Mrs A.C. Newell.

**Mr D. Cove and Miss D. Ward**  
The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr P. Cove, of Ingby, Barwick, Stockton on Tees, and Mrs S. Sykes, of Yarm, Cleveland, and Deborah, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Ward, of High Barnes, Sunderland.

**Mr R.G. Darvill and Miss L. Nagel**  
The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Mr and Mrs Erasmus Darwin, of Kensington, London, and Irene, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hans-Jürgen J. Nagel, of Elm by Hannover.

**Mr M.G.S. Pedderick and Miss S. Gioria**  
The engagement is announced between Martin Gerald Siegfried, elder son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Pedderick, of Fortnean House, St Austell, Cornwall, and Signora Gloria Gioria, of Peveragno, Cuneo, Italy.

**Mr R. Pike and the Hon G.M. Grimston**  
The engagement is announced between Robin, youngest son of the late Thomas Pike and of Mrs Margery Pike and Georgina, daughter of Lord and Lady Grimston of Westbury.

**Mr J.G.M. Watson and Dr K.J. Humphreys**  
The engagement is announced between Jolyon Garmon Maxwell, only son of Dr and Mrs G.M. Watson, of Holmedene, Armitage, Doncaster, Yorkshire, and Karen Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.P. Humphreys, of 3 Craig Court, Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire.

**Mr A.C.W. Williams and Miss J.M.L. Barrows**  
The engagement is announced between Alistair, son of Dr and Mrs Arthur Williams, of Daviot, Aberdeenshire, and Judith, daughter of Professor and Mrs Desmond Burrows, of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

**Dr I.J. Hughes and Miss S.K.B. Nichols**  
The engagement is announced between Ian, elder son of Mr and Mrs E. Hughes, of Stratford-upon-Avon, and Sarah, daughter of Dr and Mrs J.B. Nichols, of Subbard, Norfolk.

## OBITUARIES

## VICE-ADMIRAL SIR JOHN LANCASTER

**Vice-Admiral Sir John Strike Lancaster, KBE, CB, director-general manpower, Royal Navy, and chief naval supply and secretariat officer, 1959-62, died on January 7 aged 88. He was born on June 26, 1903.**

JACK Lancaster was supply officer in the 13,000-ton carrier *Ocean* which helped rescue survivors after the Corfu channel incident in 1946. More than 40 British sailors lost their lives when the destroyers *Saumarez* and *Volage* ran into an Albanian minefield in the Mediterranean more than 12 months after the second world war had ended, initiating a long and bitter dispute between the two countries. Lancaster, then aged 42, never forgot the scenes which followed as the badly burned and mutilated survivors were laid on the carrier's flight deck awaiting treatment or evacuation to hospitals on shore.

Five years earlier many of his own friends and colleagues had been lost when the cruiser *Gloucester* was sunk by enemy aircraft south-west of Crete on May 22, 1941. Lancaster himself had left the ship shortly before the attack, to be posted as drafting commander in HMS *Victory*, Portsmouth, with responsibility for sending supply personnel around the world. He was a deeply humane man, and it was said that the fate of *Gloucester*, which he had so narrowly escaped, caused him sleepless nights as he worried over the fate of the young men whom,



in his new job, he was daily responsible for dispatching to the war zone.

Not that Lancaster himself ever spent much time at home. The silver napkin ring on which he inscribed his postings shows a total of as many as 25 ships and shore establishments in which he served during his 40 years in the navy.

Much of his life was spent with the Fleet Air Arm which he saw develop from its earliest days. His penultimate job in the navy was that of rear-admiral (personnel) at HMS *Daedalus*, the Home Arm Command base, Lee-on-Solent. From there he moved to his first and last post at the Admiralty as director-general manpower and chief naval

supply and secretariat officer — the first officer to combine the two appointments.

The son of a marine architect, Lancaster was educated at King Edward VI School, Southampton, before joining the navy in 1921 as a special entry paymaster cadet. He spent much time in the Far East as a young man. In a weak moment he had a drag on tattooed on one arm — a decision which he sometimes regretted in later years. But his love of the East was reflected by his Siamese cats, whom he named Yok See and Sing Hai after his Chinese servants in Hong Kong.

Indeed, so fond was he of cats that when he was conducting a routine ship's inspection, it was a well known rule among the crew to release the ship's cat at the crucial moment. His attention distracted, the aberrant crew stood a better chance of escaping retribution for any sloppiness of dress or untidiness on the messdecks.

Lancaster, small in stature and beetle-browed, was a strong upholder of naval discipline, a dedicated sailor who often opted to stay on board ship during port visits. But the fact that he told the cat story against himself testified to his underlying tolerance and good humour.

In retirement he became chairman of the Royal Naval Benevolent Society and a local councillor in Gosport and worked for a number of local charities. His wife died in 1980 and he is survived by his two daughters.

## JOSEF NECKERMANN

**Josef Neckermann, German businessman, Olympic rider and sports fund raiser, died on January 13 aged 79. He was born on June 5, 1912.**

ONE of the symbolic figures of the post-war economic reconstruction of Germany, winner of six Olympic medals and founder of an institute which financed amateur sport, Josef Neckermann was the best-known name in the country, according to recent opinion polls. "Neckermann macht's möglich" (Neckermann makes it possible), the slogan he devised for his mail order company, became a kind of watchword for all he did.

He was the son of a coal merchant in Würzburg and his boyhood dream was to become a cavalry officer. But his father's early death forced him to leave school early and he served a three-year apprenticeship with a local bank. He gained further business experience in Stettin (now Szczecin) and for a while worked for an English company in Newcastle. He returned to Germany in 1933.

In 1935 he acquired his first business, as a result of the Nazi "aryanisation" policy, buying out a Jewish textile company in Würzburg. In 1938 he bought the Carl Joel linen mail order company in Berlin after his Jewish owner fled to Switzerland. During



the war he concentrated on producing clothing for the army, providing all the heavy uniforms for soldiers serving on the eastern front.

In December 1945 an American military court sentenced him to a year's hard labour for trying to start up his Würzburg company without proper authorisation but a second case against him was dropped. In 1948 he set up business again in Frankfurt although, as he was still not allowed to run a company, his wife, Annemarie, became his nominal head. He was able to open up his mail order company in his own name in 1951, concentrating on clothing, but offering everything from radios to refrigerators, mopeds and television sets. His policy was a

small profit on a huge turnover and as the post-war German economic surge got under way Neckermann mail order goods rapidly helped improve living standards all over the country. The business grew to provide jobs for 22,000 workers.

In 1963 he founded a travel agency, NUR, which grew to become one of the largest organisers of package air holidays in Europe, providing the cheap trips to sunny resorts which enabled Germans to become one of the most travelled nations in the world. In the same year, however, the industrialist Friedrich Flick, who had provided Neckermann with substantial financial help to start his post-war business, withdrew his capital from the mail order company. Although his family retained a majority holding, the American Morgan Guaranty Trust Company bought in heavily. Turnover was high but profits began to fall and in 1976, when the company recorded its first loss, it had to go public.

The earlier success of his business enabled him from the age of 39 to pursue his childhood ambition to be a top-class rider. For 20 years he was one of the best dressage riders in the world. He won a bronze medal in the individual event in the 1960 Rome Olympics, gold in the

team event in 1964 in Tokyo, gold in the team and silver in the individual in 1968 in Mexico City, silver in the team and bronze in the individual in 1972 in Munich — when he rode, despite a serious injury, wearing a steel corset. He was world dressage champion in 1966 and European champion in 1965, 1967, 1969 and 1971. In 1979 he had to have a pacemaker fitted for his heart, but it was not until 1981, at the age of 69, that he retired from competitive riding.

His involvement in sport led him to chair the German Sport Help Institute, raising money for athletes. He called himself "the largest beggar in Germany", succeeding in persuading big business and private sponsors to provide over DM 200 million to fund the training programmes which have helped to make Germany a major sporting nation.

The death of one of his sons, Johannes, in 1986 and of his wife from cancer in 1989 were major shocks to him. A heavy smoker for most of his life, he was diagnosed in hospital as having incurable lung cancer just before Christmas and insisted on being allowed to spend his last days at his home in Dreieich, near Frankfurt. He is survived by a son and daughter.

## NELL JENKINS

**Nell (Agatha Helen Mary) Jenkins, editor and social work administrator, died on January 13 in London aged 74. She was born at Seaview, Isle of Wight, on September 6, 1917.**

FROM her early work as a leader of the Oxford Student Christian Movement, Nell Jenkins went on to develop the voluntary principle as an integral part of local government. As organising secretary of Age Concern Westminster, she forged a partnership between the voluntary and local authority sector in the care of the elderly, long before the Conservative government took up such ideas.

Nell Jenkins was the third of five daughters of George Cree, a solicitor of Gray's Inn, and his wife Agatha, one of the Guernsey Careys. Her Guernsey connection was of great pride to her. Educated at Sydenham High School, she read philosophy, politics and economics at St Anne's College, Oxford. In 1938-9 she was president of the university's Student Christian Movement, then at a peak of often controversial activity. On the outbreak of war, she became an ambulance driver in Stepney during the blitz, one of the most dangerous jobs open to women in the war. After her hair-raising drives in total darkness across the bomb-cratered East End, no British or foreign road subsequently held any fear for her.

At Oxford she met and subsequently married a Welsh theology student, Daniel Jenkins. While she retained her membership of the Church of England she played an active part in his varied career as a Congregational minister and academic theologian in Chicago, Sussex and Princeton.

In 1950 Nell Jenkins was appointed by Noel Davy of the SPCK to edit *View Review*, a new quarterly periodical to review the main theological books of the day in a practical but scholarly style. The magazine was circulated to every Church of England incumbent and soon became an indispensable reading. Her growing family became used to a kitchen table covered in proofs, paste pots and complaints of tardy copy. Mrs Jenkins edited *View Review* for 22 years. The magazine, unique in its field, ceased publication shortly

after her departure in 1972.

By then her family were beginning to leave home and Nell Jenkins determined to begin a full-time job. After a postgraduate course in social administration, she took up the post-war initiative of Sir Charles Norton in giving to a voluntary agency under contract certain statutory local services. Age Concern Westminster, of which Mrs Jenkins soon became organising secretary, received a direct grant from Westminster council but enjoyed considerable autonomy in caring for what was one of the largest elderly populations in Britain. The result was frequent, usually creative, encounters with Westminster council.

Age Concern Westminster expanded rapidly under her leadership. She sought to de-institutionalise the care of the elderly, making a special study of the crisis of retirement and pleading with "professional" social workers to show more respect for the dignity of age and for the expressed desire to stay at home. She would be furious whenever a council was criticised for "leaving the old to die alone at home". In much of this she was ahead of her time. Westminster's excellent day care centres are part of her legacy.



Ill health prompted Nell Jenkins' retirement at the end of 1979. She devoted the rest of her life to her husband, who on his retirement from London became professor of divinity at Princeton, and to her family. She carried into old age the elegance and sense of dignity that she always sought for those in her care. She is survived by her husband, two sons and three daughters.

## REAR-ADMIRAL GRACE HOPPER

**Patricia Morton writes:**

I KNEW Grace Murray Hopper (obituary, January 4) well over the past 15 years or so after meeting at a Computing Women of the Year lunch, and was delighted when she agreed to speak to my undergraduates at Thames Polytechnic, on the first occasion in 1979. Such was the response to her powerful speech that our student branch of the British Computer Society (the first in the UK) invited her twice more, at four year intervals, so that new generations could be bewitched by her.

Her gift for captivating undergraduates contributed enormously both to their inspiration to work with open minds in their computing ca-

reers and to their appreciation of a first class presentation with brilliant visual aids. On her last visit to Thames she explained that she was getting too tired for other kinds of events but that she appreciated the energy young people gave back to her.

No one at Thames will forget that tiny, commanding, white-haired, uniformed figure. The warmth of the ovations she received from vast audiences of undergraduates reflected the affection she had shown in talking directly and frankly to them. Her patience with their questions and requests for photographs with her was legendary and should be allowed to balance her undoubted combative moments.

## Archaeology

## Study of early riders goes straight to horse's mouth

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

WORN teeth on the jaws of horses butchered 6,000 years ago have shown that riding began some 2,500 years earlier than had been supposed. The wear was caused by the use of a bit, which a horse will habitually pull back onto its premolar teeth.

Horseback riding has generally been supposed to have begun in Asia around 1500BC, according to Dr David Anthony of Hartwick College, New York, and his colleagues. Cavalry units first appear in the armies of Mesopotamia and its neighbours some five centuries later.

Their new evidence, from the site of Dereivka in Ukraine, shows that horse and rider had joined forces on the steppes of western Asia by 4000BC. "Riding therefore predates the wheel, making it the first significant innovation in human land transport," they say.

Dereivka was excavated by Dr Dimitri Telegin of Kiev, who describes it as a farming hamlet on the west bank of the Dnieper. Its inhabitants ate a lot of horsemeat: horse bones were more than 60 per cent of those identified and

represented at least 52 animals yielding some 15,000lb of meat. Most had been killed at six to eight years of age; and the high proportion of stallions suggests culling of a managed herd rather than random hunting of a wild population. The head and left foreleg of one stallion had been ritually buried, and may be the remains of a head and hide displayed on a pole to mark a sacred location, a common occurrence in pre-Christian Europe.

Two perforated antler objects found near by appear to be the cheekpieces which hold the ends of a bit. Measurement of the premolars of the buried stallion showed that some 3.5mm of tooth had been worn away from the front surfaces, closely matching the degree of wear found on a sample of modern horses broken to the bit. A control sample of wild horses had only a quarter as much erosion.

Dr Anthony's team say: "When casts of the Dereivka premolars were examined under the scanning electron microscope, all the micro-

## Receptions

**Baroness Gardner of York**  
Lord Romney, President of the Boissard Medical Research Fund, was present at a reception held last night at the House of Lords. Baroness Gardner of Parkes, a patron of the fund, was host.

**NAHAAT**  
The Hon William Waldegrave, Secretary of State for Health, was the principal guest at the annual reception of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts (NAHAAT) held last night at the Institute of Civil Engineers. He was received by Mr William Darling, chairman.

## Service luncheon

**RAF**  
The Honorary Air Commodore of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force held a luncheon yesterday at Swire House, Buckingham Gate. The Inspector General, Air Commodore Sir Hector Monro, MP, presided and Air Chief Marshal Sir Roger Palin was the guest of honour. Among others present were:

Marshall of the RAF Sir Michael Becham, Air Vice-Marshal Sir John Severn, Air Commodore Sir John Newton, Air Commodore the Duke of Craton, the Duke of Hamilton, Sir Mark Norman, Sir John Graham, Sir Adrian Swift, Sir Rex Hunt and John Williams and Group Captain M. Tilly.

## Luncheon

**Rotary Club of London**  
Mr Neville Shuman, Vice-President of the Rotary Club of London, presided at a luncheon held yesterday at the Café Royal. Sir Bryan Nicholson also spoke.

## Sandringham ban

The Queen has barred local charities from using the ballroom of Sandringham House, Norfolk, for fund-raising events in a move to tighten security.

## Dinners

## Woolmen's Company

The Princess Royal attended a livery dinner at the Woolmen's Company held last night at Painters' Hall and unveiled a painting by Mr Michael Noakes to mark her admission to the company in 1988. Mr Richard V. Proctor, Master, presided and the Lord Chancellor and Dr Paul Knappman also spoke. Among others present were:

The Masters of the Painter-Stainers', Wheelwrights', Patternmakers' and Farmers' Companies, the Upper Bailiff of the Weavers' Company, the Master of the Company of Merchant Taylors of York, the President of the Law Society and the President of the Chartered Institute of Bankers.

**Parish Clerks' Company**  
The Revdary A.R. Rogers, Master of the Parish Clerks' Company, assisted by Mr L.L. Brace and Mr L.R.R. Miller, Wardens, presided at a dinner held last night at Tallow Chandeliers' Hall after attending Evensong at St Michael's.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Richard Savage, poet, London, 1697; Sir Ian Hamilton, general, Corfu, 1853; Sir John Forbes-Robertson, actor-manager, London, 1853; André Michelin, pioneer of mass production of motor tyres, 1853; Robert Service, poet, Preston, 1874; Ethel Merman, singer, New York, 1909.

**DEATHS:** Edward Gibbon, historian, London, 1794; Sir John Moore died of his wounds at the battle of Corunna, 1809; Léo Delibes, composer, Paris, 1891; Arturo Toscanini, conductor, New York, 1957; Robert Van de Graaf, physicist, Boston, Massachusetts, 1967.

## The Right Hon the Earl Attlee

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of the Right Hon the Earl Attlee will be held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, on Thursday, January 30, at noon. Tickets are not required. All are welcome.

## K.P. Obank

A memorial service for Kenneth Obank, who was successively Chief Sub-Editor, Production Editor and Managing Editor of *The Observer* from 1965 to 1970, will be held at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, on Tuesday, January 21, at noon.

The Lord to those who have courage to believe in those who believe in the Lord.

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## NEW RELEASES

◆ **BILL Y BATHGATE** (15). Here's a new look at the notorious gangster in 1930s New York. Muffled, disappointing version of novel. Starring Dustin Hoffman, Loren Dean, director, Robert Benton.

Camden Parkway (071-267 7034)  
Camden Chelsea (071-352 5086)  
Nottingham (071-227 6705)  
Odons: Kensington (0426 914688)  
Leicester Square (0426 915683)  
Screen on the Green (071-226 3520)  
Whiteleys (071-792 3332)

◆ **THE BRIDGE** (12). Vagabond British costume drama about a Victorian wife's summer affair, from Maggie Hemmingsway's novel. With Saskia Reeves, David O'Hara. Director, Syd McCarron.

Camden Parkway (071-370 2338)  
Haymarket (071-438 1827)  
Tottenham Court Road (071-438 6148)  
MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031)

◆ **HELLO, HEMINGWAY**. Young girl's problems with education and family in Havana, 1935. Refreshing, better-than-average drama, director, Fernando Perez. Cuban drama, director, Fernando Perez. Cinema (071-930 3647)

◆ **LIEBESTRAUM** (16). Mike Figgis's dark, wild tale of love, death and castles in architecture. Intriguing at first, but by the time it's over, it's a bit of a mess. Starring Kevin Spacey, Anthony Quinn, Kevin Spacey, Anthony Quinn.

Camden Parkway (071-370 2338)  
Haymarket (071-438 1827)  
Tottenham Court Road (071-438 6148)  
MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031)

◆ **MERCY LA VIE** (16). Time-hopping adventures of two rampaging girls (Charlotte Gainsbourg, Anouk Grinberg). Starring Gainsbourg, Anouk Grinberg. Director, Bertrand Blier. Cinema (071-930 3647)

◆ **THE ADAMS FAMILY** (PG). Tasty feast of black humour, inspired by the 1920s TV spin-off from Charles Addams's macabre cartoons. Starring

Camden Parkway (071-370 2338)  
Haymarket (071-438 1827)  
Tottenham Court Road (071-438 6148)  
MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031)

◆ **BECKET**. Riveting performance from Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay. A study of the relationship between Thomas Becket and Henry II. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 5.00pm, Wed, 7.30pm, 150mins.

◆ **THE CABINET MINISTER**. Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay. A study of the relationship between Thomas Becket and Henry II. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 5.00pm, Wed, 7.30pm, 150mins.

◆ **DANCING AT LUGHNAGA**. Brian Friel's Dublin Award-winning play, set in 1920s Donegal, returns with a new cast. Garry, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5080). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 5.00pm, Wed, 8pm, 150mins.

◆ **A DYBBUK FOR TWO PEOPLE**. Bruce Myers, Corinna Jaber play roles in the Yiddish tale of the supernatural. Accompanied, minuscule Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Theatre, NW3 (071-226 8301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 5.00pm, Wed, 8pm, 150mins.

◆ **AN EVENING WITH GARY LINKER**. Gary Linker's play about the life of a woman married to a woman. Duxbury, Chichester Street, London WC2 (071-494 5075). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm and 4.50pm, 130mins.

◆ **THE GIGLI CONCERT**. Barry Foster is obsessed with making an Irish melange (Tom Murphy's powerful tale). Alameda, Alameda Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 4.50pm, 150mins.

◆ **THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III**. Nigel Hawthorne is very fine as the stricken king, but as a whole, Alan Bennett's play does not quite work.

Camden Parkway (071-370 2338)  
Haymarket (071-438 1827)  
Tottenham Court Road (071-438 6148)  
MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031)

◆ **CINDERELLA**. Scottish Ballet brings its revival of Peter Dinklage's production to Aberdeen, where it was premiered in 1979. This lively tale is choreographed to Rossini's music from his opera La Cenerentola. In tonight's performance, up-and-coming members of the company Elspeth Shaw, Roddie Paterson and Richard Whittaker, lead the principal roles, while Saturday brings Vincent Hantson's farewell performance after 16 years with Scottish Ballet.

◆ **SIMPLY RED**. Still led by Mick Hucknall but with another revamped line-up, Simply Red brings a UK tour promoting its fourth album, *Start* (the country's best-selling album of 1991). The group plays dates in Aberdeen, Manchester and Birmingham before performing at London's Wembley Arena next Thursday and Friday.

◆ **GERHARD RICHTER**. The best exhibition of works on paper from the collection of the Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt covers Richter's whole career from 1965 up to date. Comparing prints, pencil sketches, watercolours, photographs and multiples of various kinds, the show offers insight into the variety of styles Richter works in and their evolution in relation to one another. Scottish Institute of Art, 80 Piccadilly, London SW1 (071-581 5125). Mon-Thurs, 10am-6pm, Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 9.30am-12.30pm, until Feb 8.

◆ **ALL MY SONS**. Ian Bennett plays Keller, the manufacturer of built-in cylinder heads, in Arthur Miller's masterpiece on the need for fathers younger than the family David Thewlis directs. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 5.00pm, Wed, 7.30pm, 150mins.

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◆ **THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III**. Nigel Hawthorne is very fine as the stricken king, but as a whole, Alan Bennett's play does not quite work.

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◆ **CINDERELLA**. Scottish Ballet brings its revival of Peter Dinklage's production to Aberdeen, where it was premiered in 1979. This lively tale is choreographed to Rossini's music from his opera La Cenerentola. In tonight's performance, up-and-coming members of the company Elspeth Shaw, Roddie Paterson and Richard Whittaker, lead the principal roles, while Saturday brings Vincent Hantson's farewell performance after 16 years with Scottish Ballet.

◆ **SIMPLY RED**. Still led by Mick Hucknall but with another revamped line-up, Simply Red brings a UK tour promoting its fourth album, *Start* (the country's best-selling album of 1991). The group plays dates in Aberdeen, Manchester and Birmingham before performing at London's Wembley Arena next Thursday and Friday.

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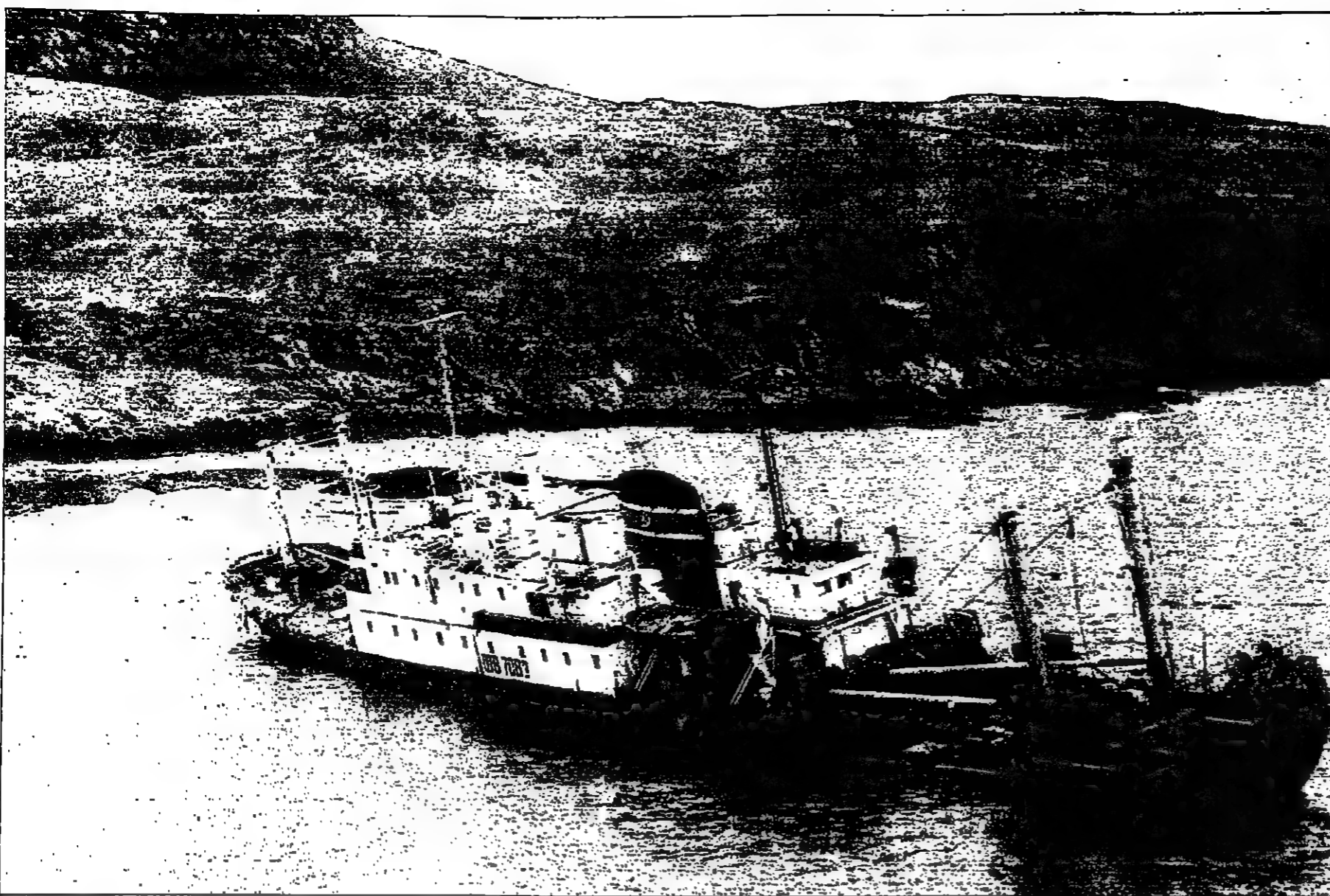
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**CHANNEL 4**

هذه هي



Unwelcome visitor: the wrecked Kartli firmly embedded on rocks off the island of Gigha with her cargo of 400 tonnes of rotting fish still aboard

## NHS reforms vindicated by GP budgets

Continued from page 1  
could avoid sending patients to poor consultants. Budgets improved their status and gave them more power over consultants, they believed.

There was little risk of over-spending because their budgets covered elective surgery only, so if they ran out of money they could

put people on a waiting list. Nor did they undermine the health authority's capacity to plan: since information about the health needs of populations was so scarce, what GPs demanded in the market was a useful indicator that could help the planning process. There was no evidence that GPs were turning away chronically ill

patients who might be costly to treat. The study says that the budgets will have to be changed or GPs could refer more patients to increase next year's allocation. It also says that budget holding is more popular in the South-East.

Healthy statistics, page 14

## The Times INTERCITY Crossword Championship 1992 Qualifying Puzzle

Today we publish the qualifying puzzle for The Times Intercity Crossword Championship, 1992.

### Competition rules

Competitors may qualify by correctly solving and submitting this puzzle.

I enclose cheque/PO for £5, my entry fee for the 1992 Times Intercity Crossword Championship with stamped and addressed envelope (10x14).

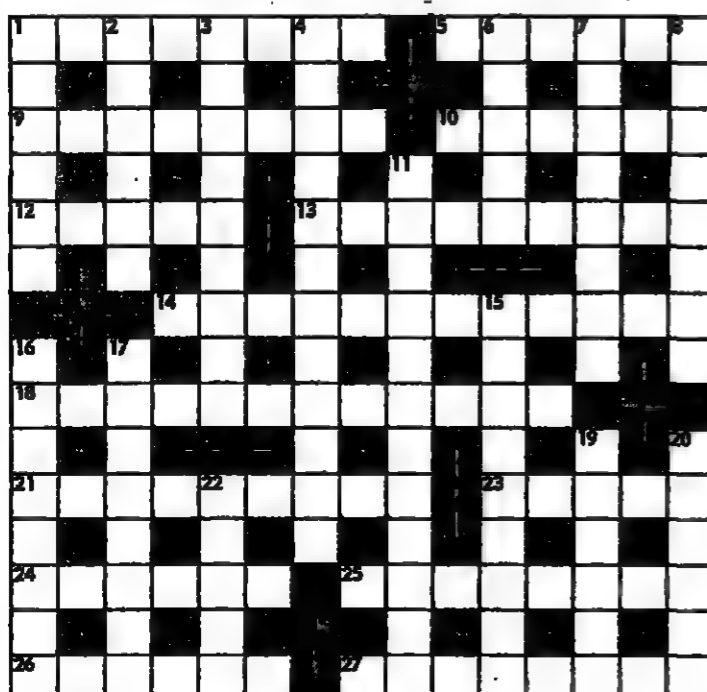
NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

VENUE \_\_\_\_\_

Willing to attend Birmingham if necessary Yes/No (delete as applicable). London applicants please state London A or London B, or either.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,816



### ACROSS

- A charitable gift almost beats the blues (8).
- Assurance displayed by father returning to see doctor (6).
- The Circle Line, where there's always a Pole at the terminus (8).
- Society member as backer of Covent Garden, say (6).
- Half Lord Alfred's inner circle can be found in this joint (5).
- Seafaring type with a chair on board (9).
- Arabs, possibly, involved in this shrewd bargaining? (5-7).
- Persistent questioner given money for bread (12).
- A writer set out to get meat without one (9).
- In real terms, change is not so pronounced (5).

### DOWN

- To deem unsatisfactory and deprive of rank (6).
- Cat crossing a river by airway (6).
- Advice once given to conceal gold bar in coat (9).
- Be in earnest in ignoble company (4,8).
- Capital husband withdraws from part of diocese (5).
- Like Pepusch's version of Gay's beggarly play (8).
- Rallying, make bed again (8).
- Series among contents of this transporter? (12).
- She produced a law for a Roman and Egyptian god (9).
- One abandoning a cause after being immured by a goddess (8).
- Risk including article in which sovereign appears (8).
- Way the old cross a main road, causing obstruction (6).
- Tribe's head man is devious (6).
- Possibly the old style community spirit (5).

### Solution to Puzzle No 18,815

MUSTARD FATIGUE  
S C P L E R R A N  
T H E T A S O A P E G O A T  
S E A R I N N O R  
L I K E M A G I C C O M M A  
O E N H I  
T R A M P A D O R A T I O N  
S E C R E T E M O T R A W L  
D O V E R I E  
E B U S D O N E T I N A L  
E A C L A O G R  
V I C T O R I A N R O W A N  
I O P N C P A E  
L I N S E E S S A Y E D

Concise Crossword, page 17

## Cargo of rotting fish threatens 'God's isle'

By KERRY GILL

THE Baron of Gigha last night prayed for freezing temperatures and a strong easterly wind as he contemplated the 400-tonne cargo of rotting fish that for a month has lain off the island of Gigha, known as "God's isle" because of its beauty.

The wreck of the 1,900-tonne Soviet-registered factory ship Kartli, disabled in mid-December in an Atlantic gale, has posed a dilemma for the authorities which want to dispose of the fish before they pose a pollution threat. Argyll and Bute district council insists that the fish be removed but there are difficulties in getting the

owners and their insurers to pay for the disposal of the cargo.

A wave smashed the ship's wheelhouse on December 18, and she was driven next day on to rocks on the northwest coast of the island, to the dismay of Malcolm Potter, who bought Gigha and the island barony in 1989.

A Hull salvage company, which is dealing with the ship's London agents, is ready to remove the fish if somebody agrees to pay their bill.

Mr Potter said: "We just hope that the weather stays cold. The last thing we want is the stink of rotting fish all over the island."

### WEATHER

Much of the country will have a cloudy day although parts of the south-west might have a little sunshine. Eastern Scotland and north-east England will have some fog at first, freezing and dense in places. Many parts will be dry but north and north-west Scotland will have some rain and drizzle which will edge south to many eastern parts of Scotland and England. Outlook: mostly dry with some sunshine in places; some overnight frost and fog.

### FORECAST

Monday: 1-4: shower; 5-10: drizzle; 11-15: fog; 16-20: rain; 21-24: sun; 25-28: sun; 29-31: sun.

Area	C	F	Area	C	F
Abertawe	15	59	London	14	57
Abertawe	14	57	London	13	55
Abertawe	13	55	London	12	53
Abertawe	12	53	London	11	51
Abertawe	11	51	London	10	49
Abertawe	10	49	London	9	47
Abertawe	9	47	London	8	45
Abertawe	8	45	London	7	43
Abertawe	7	43	London	6	41
Abertawe	6	41	London	5	39
Abertawe	5	39	London	4	37
Abertawe	4	37	London	3	35
Abertawe	3	35	London	2	33
Abertawe	2	33	London	1	31
Abertawe	1	31	London	0	29
Abertawe	0	29	London	-1	27
Abertawe	-1	27	London	-2	25
Abertawe	-2	25	London	-3	23
Abertawe	-3	23	London	-4	21
Abertawe	-4	21	London	-5	19
Abertawe	-5	19	London	-6	17
Abertawe	-6	17	London	-7	15
Abertawe	-7	15	London	-8	13
Abertawe	-8	13	London	-9	11
Abertawe	-9	11	London	-10	9
Abertawe	-10	9	London	-11	7
Abertawe	-11	7	London	-12	5
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# THE TIMES BUSINESS

THURSDAY JANUARY 16 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

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## MCC records 'are missing or inaccurate'

By NEIL BENNETT  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

FINANCIAL records at Maxwell Communication Corporation, the collapsed media group, are missing or inaccurate according to Price Waterhouse, its administrator. The accountant has asked MCC's banks for their records of the group's transactions in an effort to find out how and why £339 million was siphoned out of the group last summer.

PW has also identified a series of offshore companies in Liechtenstein, the British Virgin Islands and Panama that were used to divert MCC's funds, and are thought to have taken part in an illegal share support operation. The matter is being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office.

One of these companies is Cory Stiffing, in Liechtenstein, which David Lee, a PW partner who is in charge of tracing MCC's missing funds, said owes MCC £20 million. Mr Lee is trying to get access to the

records of these companies to see where the funds were sent.

PW hopes it may find some of these deposits are still intact, although it fears most of the money was used to buy MCC shares, which are now thought to be worthless. Jonathan Phillips, one of the PW administrators, said: "We will pursue the matter until it becomes clear where the assets are. But if the money has been used to buy MCC shares it may not be possible to take any action and we will have an asset that is worthless and illegally acquired as well."

PW reported to the banks a month ago that all MCC's liquid funds had been removed by Mr Maxwell last summer. Since then, far more evidence has come to light about the transfers, and PW has been forced to ask the banks to assist its investigation.

Mr Lee said yesterday that many of MCC's records are still missing, and that he was not satisfied that the remaining files were accurate. Mr Lee is also trying to trace a



Mentioned in report to banks: Kevin and Ian Maxwell

number of MCC's assets, including share certificates, and details of investment properties.

The records show that £339 million was removed from MCC between April 29 and July 22. Mr Lee said the records showed that the authorisation for nine withdrawals were signed by Mr Maxwell alone.

This suggests that other senior

directors, including Basil Brookes, the finance director, and Peter Laister, who became the group chairman last month, might have been completely unaware of the scale of the operation.

Apart from Mr Maxwell only Kevin Maxwell and Albert Fuller, MCC's head of treasury operations, signed transfers for significant amounts. Mr Lee said that

cash movements between MCC and the private companies were not unusual. "MCC and the private companies had a close financial relationship and there were always substantial transactions between them. Last summer, however, it was all going one way."

PW's report to bankers last month showed that Kevin Maxwell signed transfers worth £52 million, while Ian Maxwell's signature appears on others worth only £8 million. Mr Fuller's name occurs on transactions worth £33 million.

PW has talked to Mr Brookes and Mr Fuller about their involvement in the transfers, as well as Jean-Pierre Anselmini, MCC's former deputy chairman, who is now living in Paris, but has not yet interviewed Kevin or Ian Maxwell. There is no evidence to suggest that any of MCC's other directors or executives, apart from Robert Maxwell, knew the reason for the transactions.

The records show that the funds were transferred to Robert Max-

well Group, Robert Maxwell Holdings and Pergamon Holdings, three of Mr Maxwell's key private companies. Other money was secretly injected into The European.

Mr Lee said that MCC's records suggest money was also sent to several merchant banks. Some, however, most of MCC's money is thought to have been transferred offshore and used to buy MCC's shares in an illegal and futile attempt to support the price.

Mr Lee said that some of the money was returned to MCC late last summer, after the group's directors discovered it was missing and took legal advice, but that he was not satisfied of its source. "There could have been a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul," he said. Some of the money returned to MCC may have come from Bishopsgate Investment Management, the main investment manager for the Maxwell pension funds that is now in provisional liquidation.

Select Committee, page 2

### TODAY IN BUSINESS

#### STILL FIGHTING



Archie Norman, chief executive of Asda, is offering deserting shoppers 'extra value'. For shareholders, a reduced dividend and a £68.8 million loss. Pages 22 and 23.

#### OFF TARGET

Eastern Germany only contributed 6.9 per cent to the German economy last year, less than the 10 per cent forecast at unification. Page 23.

#### BACKING OFF



Sir Gordon Borrie is leaving the Office of Fair Trading, British Gas, meanwhile, backed away from OFT confrontation. Page 23.

#### PORT HOLE

Associated British Ports says it will be maintaining its final dividend but making big provisions against property. Tempus, page 22.

#### BUDGET HOPE



Dr Anne Robinson of the Institute of Directors wants the Chancellor to cut taxes by £3 billion in the Budget. Page 23.

#### THE POUND

US dollar 1.7530 (-0.0540)  
German mark 2.8495 (+0.0076)  
Exchange index 89.9 (-0.5)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

#### STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 1940.6 (+30.2)  
FT-SE 100 2537.1 (+20.8)  
New York Dow Jones 3243.07 (-3.13)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avgs Closed

#### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10 1/4%  
3-month Interbank 10 1/4%  
3-month eligible bills 10 1/4%  
US: Prime Rate 6 1/4%  
Federal Funds 3 1/4%  
3-month Treasury Bills 3.84-3.82%  
30-year bonds 105 1/2-105 1/4%

#### CURRENCIES

London: New York £: \$1.7535  
DM2.8495 \$: DM1.8220  
SwF2.8313 \$: SwF1.4440  
FF9.8871 \$: FF5.3385  
Yen225.31 \$: Yen128.40  
Index: 89.9  
ECU 107.16358 SDR 20.779485  
ECU1.385950 SDR1.282698  
London forex market close

#### GOLD

London: AM \$355.65 pm \$355.55  
close \$355.50-355.10 (\$202.80-202.10)  
New York: COMEX \$354.45-354.95

#### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb 1) ... \$18.25 bbl (\$17.85)

#### RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.5 November (1987=100)  
\* Denotes monthly trading price

### Insurers welcome charter of rights

## Names offered protection in Lloyd's report

By JONATHAN PEYNN

A REPORT into Lloyd's of London, the loss making insurance market, has proposed a radical package of reforms, which if implemented, would transform the 304-year-old market over the next seven years.

The proposed measures, largely welcomed by the market, include a protection scheme for names suffering exceptionally heavy losses. However, this would not act retrospectively and offers no relief for the thousands of names who have incurred massive losses since 1988.

The report, "Lloyd's: A Route Forward," was commissioned by David Coleridge, the chairman of Lloyd's, in November 1990, in the face of heavy losses and falling confidence among its members. Since then, membership has fallen from close to 30,000 to an expected 22,500 for 1992. The market lost £510 million in 1988 and the 1989 year is expected to show an even larger loss.

A 13-strong task force of senior Lloyd's figures and expert advisers was appointed in January last year, under the chairmanship of David Rowland, the chairman of the Sedgwick broking group.

The 65 recommendations included in the report, which outline a massive shake up of the market over the next seven years, have been largely welcomed by the Council of Lloyd's.

Only one set of proposals, those relating to the governance of the market as a whole, were rejected out of hand. Implementation of the bulk of the remainder of the recommendations will begin immediately and some will be in place for the 1993 year.

The most radical proposals include setting up a safety net for names suffering exceptionally heavy losses, and the introduction of limited liability corporate capital into the market over the longer term. Both proposals dilute the cen-

tures old tradition at Lloyd's of individual liability down to the last cufflink. The proposals also include what amounts to a names charter, entitling them to rights such as increased information on their syndicates and an annual meeting. Also proposed is the ending of the compulsory separation of brokers and underwriters and a drive to reduce costs by 30 per cent. However, the expected abolition of Lloyd's three year accounting system was not proposed.

Presenting the report, Mr Rowland said he remained convinced of the "enormous strengths in the society". He added: "It is extremely important that the virtuous babies are not thrown out with the bathwater."

Both Mr Rowland and Mr Coleridge emphasised that the key aim of the report was to restore profitable growth to the market after the setbacks of recent years. But Mr Rowland warned that it was not possible to "wave a magic wand over the past liabilities".

Immediate reaction in the market was positive, with leading underwriters welcoming the commitment to names' rights. However, there was some disappointment at the swift rejection of the corporate governance proposals. Mark Farrer, the chairman of the influential Association of Lloyd's Members, said he was "very disappointed" by the move and urged the Council "to review its initial reaction".

Further criticism came from Marjorie Mowlam, Labour's spokeswoman on the City, who said that Lloyd's had missed the opportunity "to take a decisive first step in rehabilitating its reputation and in planning its future in the competitive world of 1992 and beyond".

Representatives of action groups for loss-making names said that report would do nothing to alleviate the suffering of Lloyd's members

hit by the heavy losses for the 1988 to 1990 underwriting years. Tom Benyon, the chairman of the Society of Names, said that Lloyd's could not ignore the "8,000 to 9,000 names in acute financial hardship". John Rew of Chatter, the firm of Lloyd's analysts, said that the report did not provide a solution to the fundamental problem facing the market, which he said was the funding of the estimated £4 billion losses expected to be incurred for the 1988 to 1991 years.

"Lloyd's has got problems to address and I don't think this report addresses them," he said.

Leading article, page 15  
Task force report, page 24  
Lloyd's future, page 25

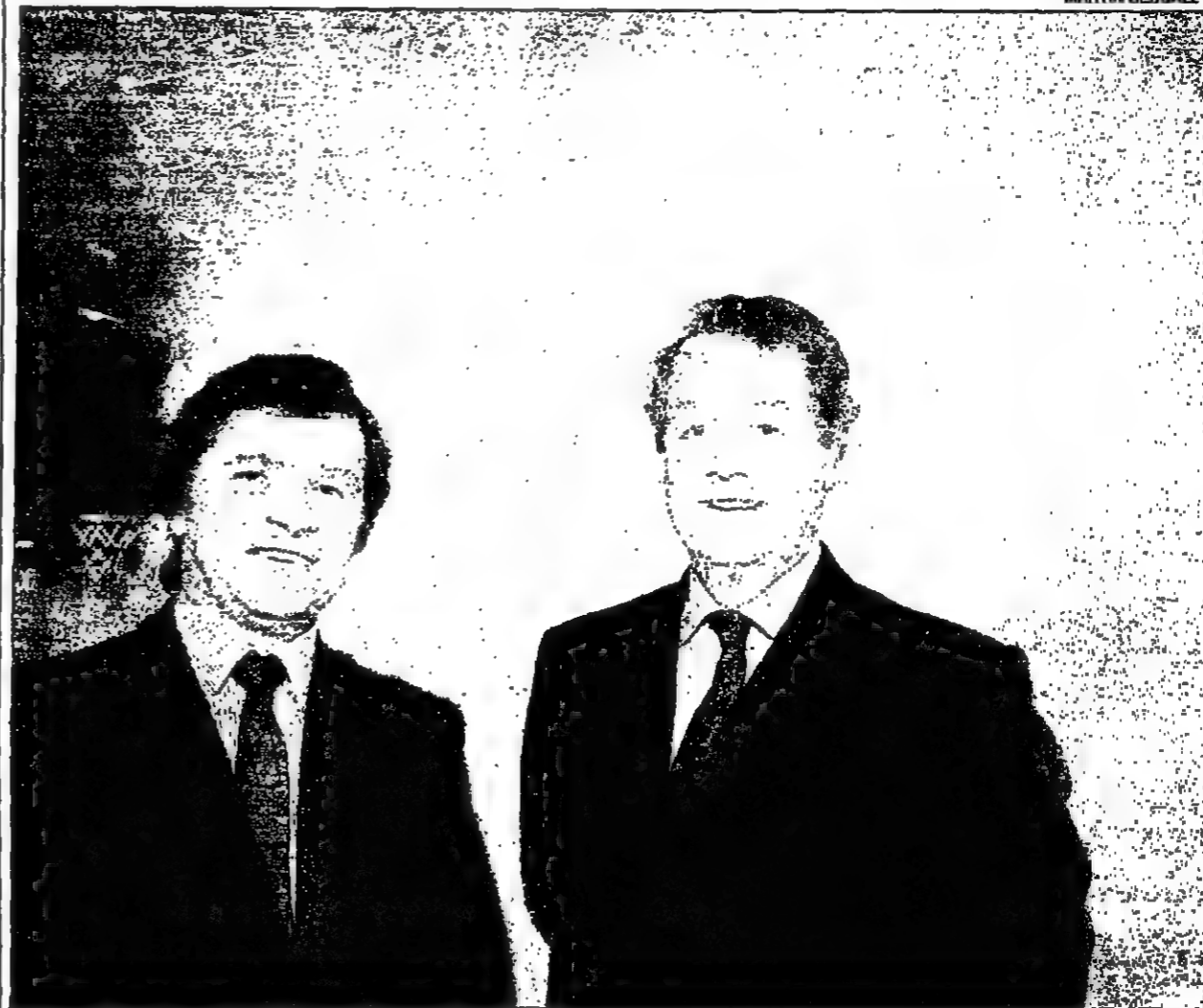
## Dollar sweeps all before it

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE dollar was king yesterday, sweeping all before it on a broad front as conviction grew in the foreign exchange markets that the currency has bottomed out.

The mark was the main victim of the dollar rally. Under severe pressure this week over concerns about strikes and the risk of recession, the mark was further weakened by remarks from Wilhelm Nolling, a member of Bundesbank board, who said he saw a chance of German interest rates falling, if the current wage round produced appropriate settlements, public deficits were limited and the weakening trend in world growth became more marked.

It was the dollar breaking through the DM1.60 resistance point that unleashed a wave of stop-loss orders, as the market realised that the



In the pink: John Conlan and Nick Ivans, at First Leisure's Empire Ballroom in London, say there was no magic behind increasing last year's pre-tax profits to £30.4 million (£29.2 million) (Tempus, page 22)

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# Asda loss adds to Norman's problems

IT IS going to take Archie Norman, the new chief executive of Asda, three years to turn the ailing supermarket group around; even then he will need a fair wind behind him. If he achieves his goal he will be the toast of the sector by his fortieth birthday.

But it is a big if. The sheer scale of the problems at Asda became apparent yesterday when the half-year results were unveiled. Profits before exceptional items for the six months to November 9 were £10.1 million compared with £58.4 million. After an exceptional charge of £78.9 million the pre-tax loss was £68.8 million. Turnover rose to £2.30 billion (£2.25 billion) and operating profits were £74 million (£107 million).

The interest charge has risen from £44.4 million to £63.7 million and the loss per share is 5.71p compared with earnings of 2.9p. The dividend is 1.25p (1.85p).

Like-for-like sales at Asda stores rose only 1.6 per cent against a market average of 3 per cent.

Simply returning a supermarket chain of Asda's size and performance to its former glory would be difficult enough but Mr Norman faces the added burdens of heavy debt and intense competition.

Debt was reduced from £945 million to £668 million, representing gearing of 48 per cent, after the £37

million rescue rights issue. But Asda still has to address its long-term finances: £133 million is due on the convertible Eurobond in April. Asset sales are a possibility and Mr Norman is ruling nothing out. But with the debt burden, he is constrained as to what he can spend to knock the group back into shape. Capital expenditure has been pared back from £200 million to £150 million this year. Sainsbury, Tesco and Asda, meanwhile, have raised more than £1 billion to fund expansion plans.

The group looks set to make around £80 million before exceptional items in the current year but the shares, down 4½p at 24½p, are 10½p off the rights issue price. Asda is still the riskiest stock in the sector. Wait until the financial problems have been properly solved.

## First Leisure

THE recession rolls on, but people still go out dancing at discotheques and bowling at ten pin bowling alleys. They still stroll along English streets. And some even go to the theatre.

First Leisure Corporation, which runs 37 discos, owns three West End theatres, 21 bowling alleys and ten snooker clubs, again demonstrates with profits for the year ended October that life is a party.

Turnover was up 6 per cent



Three-year task: Archie Norman, Asda's chief

at £108.7 million, pre-tax profits rose from £29.2 million to £30.4 million, net earnings are a tick higher at 15.67p (15.62p) a share, and a final dividend of 3.95p (3.5p) makes 5.69p (5.05p) a share for the year.

John Coulson, chief executive, says he does not think there is any particular magic in turning out higher profits

against what is perceived to be a depressed economic background; but that if there is any magic, then it must be in offering a wide-range of leisure things to do.

There is, however, an implicit profits warning that the first half of the current year — which will be Lord Defford's last as chairman — will be tough. The Blackpool

Tower, on which half of a £14 million remodelling programme will be spent, is closed and the redevelopment of several prime discotheques is planned. The overall capital spend is estimated at £40 million.

When the builders' dust has settled, the crowds will surely return to their old haunts as the doors reopen, and the view remains that year-on-year profits will again improve.

A foothold has already been established in continental Europe with First Leisure's venture in Amsterdam, and in time, the group can be expected to make a corporate leisure dance through Europe.

Gearing is a modest 13 per cent, and interest cover a healthy seven times. If other leisure concerns increasingly find the going tough during a recession, First Leisure's market share of the world of entertainment can only increase.

Profit hopes this year of £34.6 million put the shares up 6p at 28½p, on 17.3 times prospective earnings. They should continue to dance.

ABP

ASSOCIATED British Ports Holdings had long been expected to make more property writedowns because of the state of the property market, so its statement yesterday that second-half profits

will be virtually wiped out is not so much a lead balloon. Just what "substantial provisions" means becomes clear only in mid-March with publication of 1991 results. However, after 1990 profits of £60.2 million, and first-half 1991 profits of £31.7 million (£30.5 million), no more than £32 million should be expected.

The provisions are a non-cash book-keeping item and ABP says that income from its port and transport business, and from investment properties, continues to be satisfactory. On those grounds, ABP expects to pay a final dividend of at least 4.5p a share, having earlier raised the interim from 2.75p to 3.1p a share.

ABP is shy of detail before March. Interest cover and the likely level of shareholders' funds remain its secret, though borrowings are £60 million down since December 1990, at £35 million.

Because the kitchen sink has been thrown at the 1991 accounts, and assuming an economic upturn, ABP could be in line for 1992 profits of £70 million.

At 32½p, unchanged, the shares trade on 27 times 1991 earnings and 12.2 times prospective 1992 earnings. Net asset value is estimated at around 485p a share. Until the full accounts are to hand, caution is advised.

## STOCK MARKET

# Investors reluctant to chase shares higher

SHARE prices and Government bonds scored early sizeable gains on the back of a 60-point overnight rise on Wall Street and the latest opinion polls giving the Conservatives a lead over the Labour party.

But the equity market failed to sustain the momentum. The FT-SE 100 index saw a 40-point lead halved to close 20.8 points up at 2,537.1. Investors proved reluctant to

chase prices sharply higher and an opening fall in the Dow Jones industrial average took some of the steam out of the market.

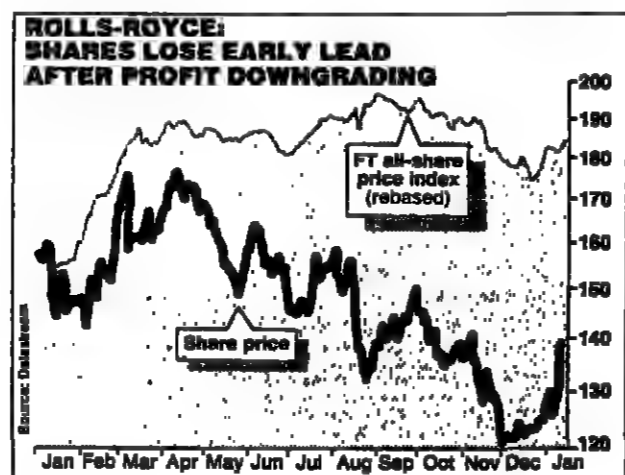
Turnover reached 667 million shares, but the level of retail demand remained sluggish. Market-makers have been caught out by the market's recent strength and now find themselves short of stock.

It was a similar story among Government securities where rises of almost £1 were recorded at the longer end early in the session. By the close, those gains had been whittled back to less than £½.

The overnight rise on Wall Street and the dollar's new found strength encouraged those companies with an international bias. There were gains for BAT Industries, 25p to 66½p, Hanson, 8p to 212½p, ICI, 23p to £11.87, and Renters, 24p to £10.94. SmithKline Beecham 'A' climbed 19p to 964p, encouraged by the prospects for its new vaccine designed to combat hepatitis A.

Cable and Wireless extended its record-breaking run with a rise of 2p to 620p, after briefly touching 627p.

Rolls-Royce lost an early lead to finish 1p lower at 138p, after a substantial profit is downgrading by UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker.



UBS has cut its forecast for the current year by £50 million to £110 million. It fears further job losses in 1992 and

is cautious about the outlook for military orders and commercial spaces. Gains fell 11p to 533p

Solid gains were recorded among the other supermarket chains with Argyl 6p better at 295p, Kwik Save 25p to 628p, William Morris 4p to 254p, Nardella & Peacock 3p to 168p, J Sainsbury 6p to 361p and Tesco 3p to 228p.

Associated British Ports was an early casualty touching 300p before closing 5p at 328p, after issuing a profit warning.

The water companies made headway, encouraged by the Conservatives showing in the latest opinion polls. Thames, which announced two acquisitions in America and Germany totalling £59 million, rose 12p to 350p. There were also gains for Anglian, 7p to

341p, Northumbrian, 9p to 352p, North West, 7p to 345p, Severn Trent, 10p to 312p, Southern, 9p to 329p, South West, 2p to 323p, Welsh, 13p to 360p, Wessex, 7p to 388p and Yorkshire, 5p to 363p.

The polls also benefited the electricity distributors with Eastern 14p better at 225p, East Midlands 9p at 243p, London 9p at 245p, Manweb 12p at 308p, Midlands 7p at

Attempts at a bear raid left Fortis, the hotel and leisure group, 7p lower at 230p. Claims that brokers had begun a series of profit downgradings were denied by the company. Kleinwort Benson, the broker, remains a seller, preferring Queens Moat 1p cheaper at 75p.

253p, Northern 13p at 260p, Norwest 5p at 268p, Seaboard 8p at 251p, Southern 9p at 255p, South Wales 9p at 310p, South West 9p at 250p and Yorkshire 9p at 290p.

MICHAEL CLARK

FT-SE 100	2,537.1
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## East's demand exceeds its GNP

# Expansion in 1991 masks current German stagnation

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE west German economy expanded strongly in 1991 with gross national product ahead by 3.2 per cent compared with 1990, according to provisional data released yesterday. But the news will do little to calm fears over the present state of the economy.

The federal statistics office said growth was probably flat in the final quarter of last year, suggesting a sharp slowdown of the west German economy over the year. The forecast of zero growth for the final quarter follows two quarters of negative growth, with quarterly falls in output of 0.6 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively. Most of last year's growth was achieved in

the first quarter, during which the economy expanded by 2.4 per cent, mainly because of strong demand created by unification.

The figures also show that eastern Germany only contributed 6.9 per cent to the German gross national product of DM2,800 billion, much less than the 10 per cent widely forecast at the time of unification. Goods and services worth DM207 billion were transferred from the western to eastern Germany. At this level, east German demand for west German goods exceeds the east's own GNP.

Wolfgang Stroh, chief economist of the federal sta-

tistics office, denied that the figures imply that the west German economy is heading for recession, although he admitted that zero growth in the fourth quarter "would mean that the economy has either stagnated or contracted since the second quarter of last year". German quarterly data tend to be more volatile than British or American data, despite seasonal adjustments, so economists are wary of pronouncing Germany in recession on the basis of only two or three sets of quarterly statistics.

The 1991 growth in the economy was mainly investment-driven. Capital investment was up 5.2 per cent, and construction investment rose by 6.9 per cent, while consumption rose much more modestly. Public consumption was up 1.2 per cent and private consumption rose by 2.4 per cent.

Jürgen Möllemann, the economics minister, expressed concern about the economy in the east. He said the slump had probably bottomed out, but there were dangers in productivity rises not keeping up with pay. Data from the federal statistics office show that wages in the east have converged faster to western levels than productivity. The average per capita output in east Germany was DM12,000, compared with DM41,000 in the west, while average pay of DM1,660 per month was 45 per cent of that in the west.

From April, east German metal workers will receive wage rises that will bring them up to a level of 71 per cent of the wages of west German workers. Herr Möllemann said "this significant wage-productivity gap poses great dangers for the profitability of the firms, future employment prospects and the overall economy".

The Federation of German Employers rejected a new and lower pay demand by IG Metall, the steel and metal workers union. On Tuesday, the union declared a strike ballot for the 130,000 workers in the northwest German steel industry, after a failure in negotiations. In the metal sector, the union has reduced its pay demand from more than 10 per cent to 9.5 per cent. The employers' federation said the readiness to call a strike ballot would increase tensions between employers and employees.

Comment, page 25

## Asda slumps into red and cuts prices

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ASDA Group, the struggling supermarket chain, is competing aggressively on pricing in an attempt to woo back customers who have been deserting to rival chains. Two hundred new, low-priced quality food lines have been introduced into underperforming stores, and next week Asda is launching an "extra value" promotion giving 30 per cent more on 600 lines.

But Archie Norman, the chief executive, denied the group was fueling a price war. "There is no price war," he said. "Supermarkets have always been competitive on price." He said the group was considering "price flexing", which may eventually lead to a regional pricing policy.

The group, which made a

pre-tax loss of £68.8 million in the six months to November 9, against profits of £58.4 million, is undergoing a thorough review of all areas of its business.

Turnover rose from £2.25 billion to £2.30 billion and the loss per share is 5.71p against earnings of 2.9p. The interim dividend is 1.25p, down from 1.85p. A final dividend of 0.85p is promised. There was an exceptional charge of £78.9 million. Allied Maps, the furnishings chain, lost £13.2 million (£3.2 million loss) and Gazeley, the group's property development business, made profits of £3.2 million (£9.3 million).

Temps, page 22

## Scottish Power signs North Sea gas deal

SCOTTISH Power, one of the two Scottish electricity companies, has signed a deal to take gas from the North Sea through the British Gas distribution system and retail it to existing industrial and commercial customers. Gas resulting from the deal will be available from March. Scottish Power's partner is Utilicorp United of America, which will take a 25 per cent share in the venture.

Utilicorp has already concluded similar deals with two regional distribution companies south of the border, Eastern and Midlands Electricity. There are no details of how much gas the venture will take, but the power company will approach customers soon to assess interest. Transmission and settlements with British Gas will be Utilicorp's responsibility. Scottish Power says it will extend gas sales to domestic customers "whenever circumstances allow".

## BAA seeks more bids

BAA, the airports operator, is continuing talks with potential bidders for its Prestwick airport despite a £4.75 million approach from AAP, a Scottish company. British Aerospace, which makes commercial aircraft and has a flying school at Prestwick, is also thought to be a bidder. Other bidders include the Ayrshire Community Airports Project consortium, headed by George Younger, chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland. BAA said the £4.75 million offer had been received but had not been accepted because the company was still in talks with other interested parties.

## Pelican trading ahead

PELICAN Group, the Café Pelican and Café Rouge restaurant group which is quoted on the USM, unveiled lower pre-tax profits of £131,000 in the six months to end September, against £263,000 last time. However, last time's profit was boosted by a £192,000 exceptional gain from the sale of properties. Trading profit advanced 84 per cent to £131,000, on turnover 7.8 per cent higher at £2.83 million. Again, there is no interim dividend.

## Wyko pegs payout

WYKO, the bearings and transmission components group, is maintaining its interim dividend at 1.4p, despite an 80.4 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £279,000 in the six months to end-October, as margins came under pressure. United Kingdom manufacturing was hardest hit in a highly competitive market with operating profits falling from £765,000 to £118,000, on turnover 13.9 per cent lower at £7.83 million. Group turnover dipped 2.2 per cent to £25.4 million. Earnings per share were down 82.6 per cent at 0.66p (5.8p). The shares lost 5p to 52p.

## Colorvision in red

COLORVISION, the television and satellite systems retailer, made a £545,000 pre-tax loss in the six months to September 30 after finding that it had understated creditors in previous accounting periods. An £808,000 exceptional charge has been made. Sales rose to £24.1 million, against £17.6 million last time, when pre-tax profit was £148,000. Colorvision has changed its year-end from September to March and has published a second set of interim results. The loss per share is 1.7p compared with earnings of 0.5p. The dividend is maintained at 3.1p.

## Beales plans cash call

BEALES Hunter, which has textile, refrigeration and electrical interests, plans a one-for-three rights issue, at 220p per share, to raise £5.08 million. The issue is underwritten by Panmure Gordon. The cash will be used to eliminate borrowings of about £2.8 million and to buy Ingram Electronics, an electronic components and cable company, and Tye Tees North Air Conditioning and Refrigeration. Beales made pre-tax profits of £1.2 million (£1.1 million) in the six months to November 30. The interim dividend rises to 2.3p (2.2p). The shares fell 14p to 260p.



Making their point: Anne Robinson, IoD head of policy, and director general Peter Morgan yesterday

## IoD wants up to £3bn of tax cuts

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

THE Institute of Directors has called on Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to cut taxes on individuals and businesses by up to £3 billion in the Budget to ensure recovery from recession this year.

The IoD's Budget submission, put together by the policy unit, headed by Dr Anne Robinson, urges Mr Lamont to step up the battle for zero inflation by freezing excise

duties on motor vehicles, alcohol and tobacco. Peter Morgan, the IoD director general, said: "The over-riding requirements of this Budget are to create a climate in which both consumer and business confidence can be restored and inflation defeated, so that interest rates can be further reduced... these are essential prerequisites for economic recovery."

He said government spending plans for 1992-3 have

pre-empted any large reduction in the overall tax burden this year, but said the IoD believed Mr Lamont still had scope for a cut of between £2 billion and £3 billion. The IoD wants the cuts targeted at rebuilding the private sector's capital base.

Unusually, the submission contains no specific demand for income tax cuts, but it urges Mr Lamont to lower the percentage paid by higher rate taxpayers by twice the

reduction for those on the standard rate, if any scope for lowering income tax emerges.

The IoD wants corporation tax lowered by a percentage point to 32 per cent for the current fiscal year, with a further one point cut in 1992-3. Other key requests include a freeze on the uniform business rate, the phased abolition of capital gains tax, and the halving of the inheritance tax rate to 20 per cent, with a higher £300,000 threshold.

## Power firms link retail operations

BY OUR CITY STAFF

SOUTH Wales and South Western Electricity, two of the 12 privatised regional distribution companies, are linking their retail operations. The development follows a similar link-up between Eastern and Southern Electricity late last year.

The deal puts South Western, which will provide all the executive management, in the driving seat. South Wales will hold less than a fifth of the equity, and either party can insist on the sale of that minority interest to South Western in the next five years.

Both companies have chosen only profitable stores for the venture. Loss-makers will be closed or converted into customer centres that will not

sell goods. In all, 23 stores will close, with about 130 redundancies.

South Western will have to take "modest" provisions at the year-end. South Wales has already taken £2 million half-way, its retail operation having made a £1 million interim loss against a deficit of just £100,000 for its new partner.

The partners say the venture will be profitable from the merger date, April 1. It will comprise ten supermarkets and 57 shops with annual turnover of £70 million. David Jones, South Wales managing director, said: "We could not have justified continuing on our own as an independent retailer."

## Thames Water expands abroad

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THAMES Water has made a £39 million deal with Germany's Truhendanstalt to gain a strategic position in the east German water engineering business. The deal is part of a £65 million acquisition package that will also expand Thames's water engineering business in America and take annual turnover outside its main utility business to £250 million.

After winning an international auction conducted by Merrill Lynch, Thames will pay £10 million for UTAG, which is based in Halle, Saxony-Anhalt, and take on a further £18 million of debt. It has guaranteed 935 of UTAG's 1,100 jobs this year and agreed to invest a further

£5.6 million over the next three years.

UTAG employs more than 500 engineers, mainly in planning, designing and project management for water and sewage systems. Mike Hoffman, Thames chief executive, said Thames and UTAG would make a strong combination. The east German states are expected to spend about £3 billion a year for the next decade upgrading their water and sewage treatment systems.

In America, Thames has bought Leopold, a water filtration specialist, for £26 million and assumes £6 million of long-term debt. Leopold will be fused with an existing American subsidiary.

## Gas yields on competition

BY OUR CITY STAFF

BRITISH Gas has backed down in its dispute with the Office of Fair Trading and Ofgas, the industry regulator, on the introduction of more competition in the unregulated industrial market and averted a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading, said last night he had reached agreement with Robert Evans, the British Gas chairman, and the company would sign undertakings allowing more competition into the industrial side.

But Ofgas emphasised there was no question of allowing domestic gas prices to rise as a result.

Mr Evans said British Gas "has decided that the com-



Evans: undertakings

pany will give constructive support to the measures designed to enable effective competition to develop". The company will therefore sign undertakings to cut its share of the industrial market from 90 per cent to 40 per cent and

to operate its distribution network as an independently trading subsidiary without any pre-conditions on domestic prices.

British Gas had been asking for an amendment of the tough new pricing regime to be introduced on April 1 to make up for some of the expected lost profits from industrial customers. It had wanted the matter to be considered by the monopolies commission if, as expected, it failed to agree a relaxation with the regulator that would have meant higher prices for the domestic consumer.

These conditions have now been dropped. The company said it was happy with assurances from John Wakeham, the energy secretary, that the changes should proceed "in a way which is fair to all concerned".

## Crown slides into loss

BY OUR CITY STAFF

CROWN Communications, the broadcasting group, incurred losses of £6.79 million before tax in the 12 months to September 30 and is forced to pass dividend payments.

The company said it was unlikely to return to profit until the second half of the current year, despite a recent upturn in revenues at LBC, the London news radio station.

Last year's losses compared with profits of £611,000 in the previous 12 months and included an operating deficit of £4.8 million. The loss per share was 22.9p, against a 1.3p loss.

David Haynes, chief executive, said there had been a marked improvement in the second half, when revenues

recovered by 16 per cent at LBC and the benefit of cost-cutting measures emerged. The company incurred interim pre-tax losses of £4.68 million.

A net profit of £1.52 million from the sale of investments was partly offset by severance payments, leaving an exceptional credit of £819,000. Interest charges rose by £1 million to £2.8 million, although a £4.5 million rights issue reduced borrowings to £15 million after the year-end.

Mr Haynes, whose Australian company Darling Downs now has 43 per cent of Crown, said LBC's revenues rose by 31 per cent in the first quarter of this year and the station enjoyed positive cash flow for the first

time in two years. RFM, the French radio network, continued to trade at a loss.

Ian Irvine, chairman-elect of Capital Radio, told shareholders at the annual meeting that advertising bookings continued to be short-term and there was no sign of improvement from what remained a fragile marketplace.

He confirmed, however, that the new financial year had started with a "modest" year-on-year increase in revenue. The company had been encouraged by audience figures showing that Capital FM and Capital Gold's combined share of the London radio listening market had grown from 24.6 per cent in April to June to 26.3 per cent in October to December.

## Carsberg to follow Borrie at OFT

BY MARTIN WALLER

PETER Lilley, the trade secretary, has announced the long-awaited successor to Sir Gordon Borrie as director general of fair trading, appointing Sir Bryan Carsberg, currently director-general of telecommunications and watchdog over BT and the telephone network.

There was some surprise at the timing of the appointment. The four-year review into the prices BT can charge is already under way, with a consultative document due from OfTel, the regulatory body, at the end of this month. The review may not be complete by the time Sir Bryan takes up his new duties on June 1.

In addition, the announcement of his appointment comes just a month after the BT share sale, when regulatory concern was well to the fore. A successor is yet to be named.

Sir Gordon completed his third five-year term as the head of the OFT, which has wide powers to review competition policy, in June, but he was prevailed upon to continue for another year. He will be 61 in March.

Sir Bryan was the first of the regulators to be appointed to oversee the former privatised industries, serving since the creation of OfTel in 1984. Before that he was an accountant and an academic.

He said the review of pricing arrangements would continue despite his move in June. "It's impossible to say at the moment whether they might be complete by then."

He said the timing of his appointment, so soon after the BT sale, was a matter for the government. "It's really none of my business," he said. "Obviously they didn't know this was going to happen at that time."

There was no reason to suppose his appointment would change the OFT's view of competition.

"I've shared a platform with Sir Gordon and I've been impressed by the extent to which our ideas are similar. There are bound to be differences in matters of detail — the broad thrust is likely to be the same."

Sir Gordon is seen as something of a hardliner, having taken on the beer barons and most recently British Gas.

Sir Bryan is seen as an effective regulator, but critics say he has done little to contain BT's strong profits growth in recent years to the point that it has become a political embarrassment. He has also been criticised as tending to do much of his thinking in public.

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# Names put at the forefront of thinking

THE task force's original objective was to examine the Society's capital base, looking beyond the immediate future to identify the framework within which the Society should be trading five to seven years hence. However, the current pressures on the Society led us to broaden our outlook. In addition to describing a possible long-term scenario, we have identified key changes necessary in the short term. We have put the interests of the current names at the forefront of our thinking.

**The need for growth:** In recent years, the Society has been unable to make satisfactory use of its capacity. The task force, however, concluded that the Society should not accept a strategy of planned retrenchment, but rather should commit to a strategy of real growth in income.

From 1967-83, growth was reasonably steady at around 3 per cent p.a. In the mid-1980s, however, capacity expanded at 15 per cent p.a. in real terms, far in excess of the growth in premiums.

Contraction would be damaging to the Society's long-term health. It would limit Lloyd's ability to quote terms and lead business; it could call into question Lloyd's reputation for security; it would increase the burden of the old years on a diminishing capital base and exacerbate the market's cost problem; finally, it would reduce the market's dynamism.

**The case for reform:** The strengths of the current structure were highlighted by our exhaustive review of alternative capital structures. They

include the ability of names to participate on a partly paid basis, whilst offering clients strong security; the advantages of sole trader status in terms of tax and regulatory treatment; and the low barriers to syndicate formation. We were also convinced of the attractiveness of wealthy individuals as providers of capital.

The weight of litigation is of great concern, and may challenge some of the fundamental bases of the capital structure; the cumulative impact of losses for some names across the 1988, 1989 and 1990 accounts remains uncertain; and the continuing overhang of "old years" liabilities further clouds trading prospects.

The task force concluded, however, that the strengths of the current structure outweighed these difficulties, and that the Society should seek to reform the current structure rather than move to an entirely new basis. The task force therefore proposes a two-stage programme of reform.

**Stage one reforms:** It is not legally feasible to put an absolute limit to Name's liability without abandoning the sole trader basis and moving to a fully paid structure. We propose a high-level, compulsory stop loss scheme backed by a fund: a cumulative scheme covering losses over 4 consecutive years of account, thus providing Names with protection across all normally open years; the cover is provided against losses in excess of 100 per cent of the names' overall premium limits (OPL).

## Extracts from the main conclusions of the Rowland report into the financing of London's unique insurance market

cost of the scheme and avoid "moral hazard" problems; participation is compulsory, and names will have to contribute towards the fund at an initial rate of 0.25 per cent of their OPL. Finally, there is a feature to encourage diversification. The second area of reform is to give Names an additional set of rights akin to those enjoyed by shareholders.

We propose five specific rights: the right to ongoing participation in a syndicate, provided the syndicate is continuing to trade and the name is solvent — thus managing agents would no longer have the right to give names notice, except in exceptional circumstances; the right to request the Council to replace the managing agent, subject to support from a large majority of names; the right to approve major transactions; the right of direct access to syndicate information; and the right to regular meetings of names on a syndicate via the mechanism of annual general meetings.

Lloyd's needs the flexibility to establish additional reserves. This will strengthen the market's ability to provide continuity of coverage to its clients whilst protecting Names from the volatility of returns that arise in a highly cyclical business.

The partly paid nature of Lloyd's capital base is a great attraction for many names. However, in order to maintain

the policyholder's confidence in the security of a Lloyd's policy, names' capital must be more accessible in the event of underwriting losses. Therefore, we have defined a set of principles to strengthen the accessibility of names' capital. These include a greater emphasis on a names' income, in addition to, not in place of, the current criteria for capital; a recognition that all bank guarantees will be called regardless of the underlying security; and a gradual move to increase liquid deposits by encouraging Names to maintain a 10 per cent "cushion" on top of the 30 per cent already required to be held by Lloyd's. In parallel, the Council should implement close monitoring of market liquidity.

The task force believes that the Council should commit itself to the introduction of members agents pooling arrangements (MAFA) in time for the 1993 account, if at all possible. This will provide a low-cost way for names to achieve a high level of diversification. Low cost diversification by names will also be assisted by the introduction of unitised accounting for managing agents (MANUAC); this may offer cost savings in the agency chain as an additional benefit.

Syndicates should be able to secure access to corporate capital in the short term through two mechanisms. First, premi-

ums for quota share reinsurance with insurance companies should be deductible from a syndicate's premium income limit, in an amount up to 25 per cent of a syndicate's normal premium limits if there is clear evidence of a hardening of rates. We have proposed mechanisms to ensure that names' interests are safeguarded. Second, the Council should encourage the use of consortium arrangements with insurance companies as another route for underwriters to increase their capacity to meet their customers' needs at times when Names' capacity is scarce.

We recommend that Lloyd's retains the three-year accounting system. Nevertheless, we recognise the need for more timely information during the development of an account, and so recommend publication after 24 months of the account, and publication of a syndicate's solvency position in the annual accounts.

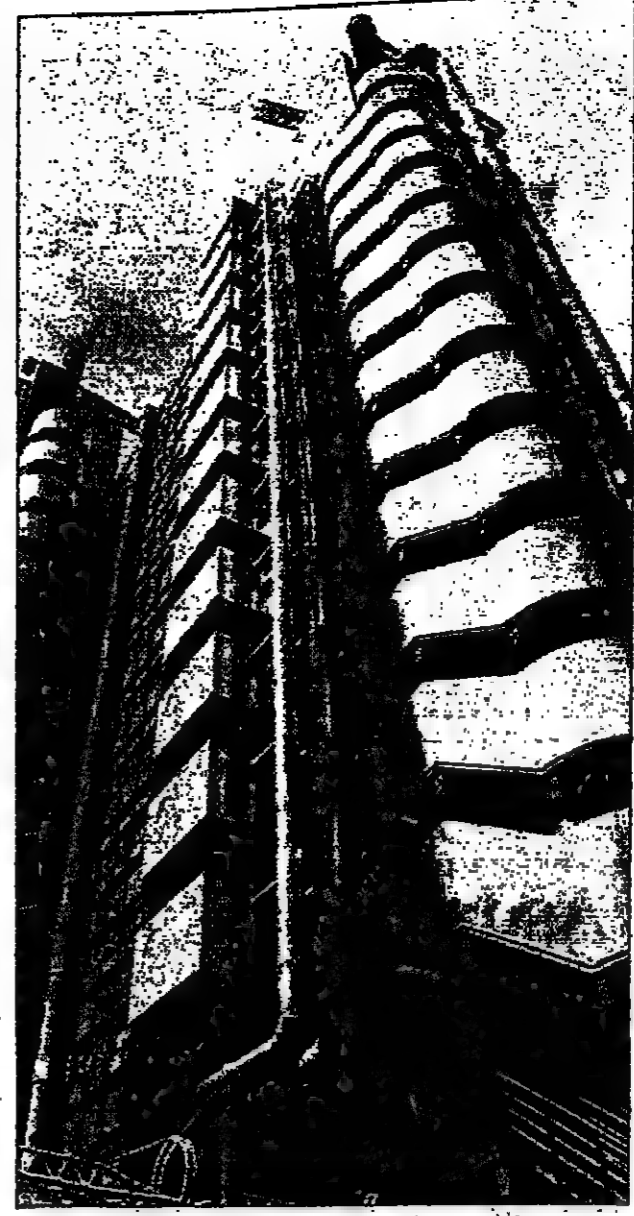
The old and open years problems are particularly intractable. The task force rejected schemes involving mutualisation of these specific losses. We concluded that the only option was to trade through these difficulties. The Society should accept that leaving a syndicate open provides the most pragmatic response to grave uncertainties such as major latent liability exposures; this represents a shift in the current policy of putting pressure on managing agents always to close syndicates at the end of three years.

The task force proposes that limited liability capital be admitted in the form of "corporate members". These would be structured as authorised insurance companies, would have to meet very high minimum solvency levels and be of a certain minimum size to ensure strong security. They could be owned by corporate or institutional bodies, including insurance companies; individuals could also be shareholders. The corporate members would participate alongside names on syndicates.

Admitting capital on this form will require changes to the Lloyd's Acts.

The final and most radical element of the task force's longer-term vision is the possible introduction of a system of value for syndicate participations. With a system of value, names would secure access to syndicates through a market mechanism with supply and demand controlled by price, rather than through the current discretionary system. Names would have to join a syndicate, buying capacity from a name seeking to leave.

**Governance:** New structures for governing the Society are required in order to respond to Lloyd's changing needs as a business. There should be a separation of responsibilities for regulation and market services. This will require a transfer of the current Council's responsibilities to two new bodies — a Lloyd's market board and a regulatory Council, and a splitting of the current chief executive role.



Future outlook: Lloyd's will undergo changes

## THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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## A two way pull on dividends

These are anxious days for finance directors, pondering their 1991 calendar year results, the first of which will be revealed in a few weeks. Judging by the series of profit downgrades from serious analysts towards the end of last year, the 1991 results season will not be a pretty one. Whether it is merely bad or truly appalling for investors will hinge to a large degree on dividend policy.

The question for many finance directors is simply to cut or pay out partly from reserves. Encouragement to cut emerged last November from no less a figure than the Governor of the Bank of England himself. He made the point that a calculated dividend reduction in the interests of financial prudence, rather than one enforced by circumstances, should be seen as the mark of responsible and resolute management.

That may prove to be small consolation for those boards which decide to bite the bullet, for the market has a deep rooted hostility to reduced payouts. ICI learned this a decade ago when a surging petro-pound pushed its export business off a cliff and the board quite rightly took the tough decision. The experience burned itself into the memories of Millbank folk and rebuilding bridges in the City took a number of years.

Roughly one-in-five of the current FT-SE 100 stocks have last year's dividend uncovered on analysts' forecasts of upcoming profits. Elsewhere many leading companies are similarly placed. GKN's dividend is unlikely to be covered until 1993. T&N appears to be in the same boat. Royal Bank of Scotland needs just one more profits downgrade to join the list, and companies such as Lorrho are suspect despite an apparently safe by no means well upholstered cushion of prospective cover.

Taken across the market, dividend cover is much lower than at the depths of the last recession. It will not in many cases be restored by sharply higher profits during 1992. How the resulting tensions between financial rectitude and realistic optimism are resolved company by company promises to be a severe test of relations between management, shareholders and the banks.

## Pay claim fears

The pay dispute in the German metal and steel industries and the threat by the IG Metall union to call a steel strike ballot on January 26 may have unsettled the foreign exchange markets, but the situation is not nearly as bleak as widely assumed.

As usual, the two sides started poles apart, with the employers offering wage rises of 4 per cent, against union claims of well over 10 per cent; but the gap has narrowed amid mounting political pressure. The employers will now settle above 5 per cent and IG Metall has cut claims in the metal sector of over 10 per cent down to 9.5 per cent.

The union's bottom line is still more than the government and the employers would consider appropriate, but a six-plus settlement would amount to no more than inflation plus rise in productivity. This is by no means unreasonable, particularly after ten years of strong industry profits and ultra-moderate wage settlements.

The real risk is not a failure in the negotiations, but the Bundesbank's reaction to the outcome. The monetary hawks of Frankfurt might still consider a 6 per cent average wage rise as too inflationary and react with a repetition of the mistake made in December when they pushed up interest rates by half a percentage point and forced most of Europe to follow against its better economic judgment.

# Rowland's landmark provides insurance for Lloyd's future

Jonathan Prynn examines the radical report whose proposals are designed to reform the market after its recent woes

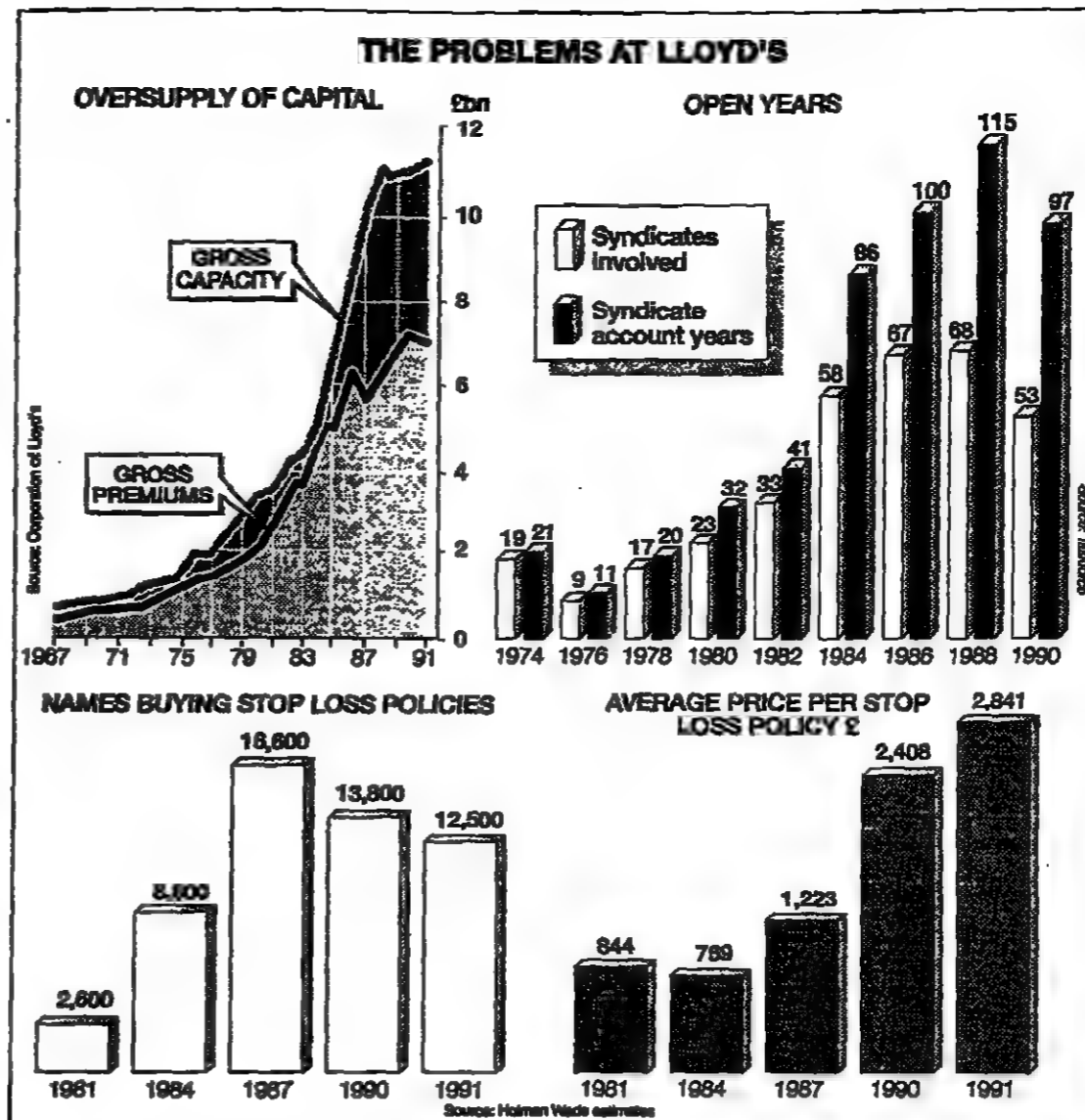
David Coleridge, the old Estonian chairman of Lloyd's of London, was not exaggerating when he described yesterday's public unveiling of the Rowland report into the market as "one of the most important press conferences ever held at Lloyd's". It is not going too far to say that the future existence of this 300-year-old insurance market rests on the 235-page volume. Entitled *Lloyd's: A Route Forward*, the report comes at a time of apparently overwhelming problems for the market.

For the past year, Lloyd's has been staring at a bleak and possibly brief future. A scenario in which the loss of names became so acute that Lloyd's could neither reap the benefits of the future upturn in the insurance cycle, nor pay off the environmental liabilities from decades-old policies, was not inconceivable. In that situation, Lloyd's would be finished as a serious global player in the international insurance industry.

It was against this backdrop that Mr Coleridge and Murray Lawrence, his forerunner as chairman, commissioned the report in November 1990, under the chairmanship of David Rowland, one of the most respected figures in the market and chairman of one of its largest broking groups. That action alone made this report different from those on Lloyd's that had gone before — it was self imposed.

Just over a year later, the finished product showed that, with the help of McKinsey, the management consultant, the 13-man task force had produced a far more radical document than had been originally envisaged. This was a top to bottom study of the state of Lloyd's and where its future lay. However, such is the pressing need for reform, and the recognition of the need for reform, that 61 of the 65 recommendations included in the report were accepted by Lloyd's ruling council. Only the section concerning the governance of the market as a whole was rejected outright.

The report describes its objective as "identifying the framework within which the society should ideally be trading in five to seven years hence". To that end, it has analysed the current problems of the market, in particular the need to restore confidence among the capital base, and suggested a broad range of remedial measures. Despite considering the possibility of retrospective action, it has rejected recommending a bailout of the several thousand names suffering hardship because of the losses in the disastrous underwriting years of 1988 to 1991. The only comfort that Mr Rowland can offer these individuals is that should they decide to carry on underwrit-



ing, they can look forward to a much more favourable environment for names at Lloyd's and may, in time, be able to trade through their losses. However, for many, the losses are simply too great for this to be a real option.

The reforms are divided into three phases. The first is aimed at restoring the risk/reward balance of names investment. Most important is the introduction of a safety net mechanism to protect names from really disastrous losses. However, as Mr Rowland is very keen to stress, this does not mean the end of the unlimited liability status for names. If the bailout fund was exhausted, or failed for any other reason, the name would still be liable under law for his or her individual losses. The fund would be paid for through an initial 0.25 per cent levy on all names, which, suggested Mr Coleridge, may eventually be dropped as the fund reaches a critical mass, making it effectively self financing.

In general, the status of names at Lloyd's will be dramatically increased under the Rowland proposals, bringing their rights closer in line with those of shareholders of quoted companies. For example, Mr Rowland recommends that names should have the right to request the council for replacement of their managing agents; should have the

right to approve major transactions carried out by those agencies; the right to direct and increased access to syndicate information; and the right to annual general meetings of names on syndicates. Other recommended improvements to the position of names include the ability to change underwriting capacity in the middle of the year, more flexible premium income limits, and regular profit forecasts.

Phase one of the report also, quite rightly, addresses one of the most damaging and intractable problems facing the market, the open years. These have been described as the cancer of Lloyd's and are one of the biggest factors behind the decline in membership. The report recommends that CentreWrite, the special purpose vehicle set up by Lloyd's to quote prices to close open years, should change its strategy to concentrate on individual names rather than entire syndicates. In other words, CentreWrite would offer to free names who wanted to leave the market but were locked in through an open year, by quoting a commercial price for reinsuring that name's liabilities.

Amid the wholesale reform, two widely expected proposals have been rejected by the task force: the com-

pulsory separation of managing and members agencies (divorce) and the abolition of the traditional three-year accounting system operating at Lloyd's. There is also a ritual call for huge cost reductions of up to 30 per cent, and a recommendation that the compulsory separation of underwriting agencies and brokers (divestment) should be ended. Mr Rowland has argued that the ethical and regulatory climate at Lloyd's is now very different from that prevailing a decade ago and that underwriters need their own distribution network to bring more new business into the market.

All the recommendations included within phase 1 can be implemented within the framework of current legislation. The bolder and more radical vision outlined in phase 2 would require a new Lloyd's Act and are unlikely to see the light of day for at least five years. However, the Council of Lloyd's has committed itself to beginning implementation, and in due course a Bill can be expected to lumber along the legislative route. The key proposal in phase 2, and one which will finally drag Lloyd's into the late 20th century, is the introduction of limited liability capital. This would be in the form of "corporate members", special vehicles specifically set up for the purpose of underwriting in Lloyd's.

although they could, and probably would, be owned by large insurance companies.

The proposal is aimed at countering a potential catastrophic collapse in the provision of capital from the traditional source of wealthy individuals. The proposal also leaves open the option of moving to a fully incorporated basis of trading at some point in the future.

Phase 2 also proposes the compulsory unitisation of smaller names' participation at Lloyd's. Names with a premium limit of less than £500,000 would be forced to join a kind of insurance unit trust, with their exposure spread across a large number of syndicates. Larger "supernames" would, for any participation in excess of £500,000, be able to negotiate directly with syndicate managers rather than dealing indirectly through a members' agent.

Looking further ahead, the task force describes a group of truly radical reforms that would effectively create a secondary market in syndicate participation. This would allow names, through some form of market mechanism, to buy and sell syndicate lines. This would have the advantage that names who wished to leave the market could do so at relatively short notice, although they would clearly have to pay a market price to have a loss making syndicate taken off their hands. The task force does not pretend that this is anything more than a tentative, long-term possibility with a range of technical and legal problems standing in the way of implementation.

Almost all of the reforms proposed in this three-tier vision of change have been welcomed by the council, and the majority by the market as a whole. It is only chapter 14, the section on governance where disagreements have emerged. The council has rejected the proposal that governance should be clearly divided between administration and regulation of the market, arguing that implementation of this proposal would cause too much upheaval and would interfere with carrying out more pressing reforms. The decision is likely to be seen by Lloyd's sceptics as the insiders ducking the chance to clean up the market once and for all, and it may be one that the council comes to regret.

Mr Rowland's report is a most important landmark in the history of one of Britain's most important financial institutions and one of its biggest foreign currency earners. If it was not for the problems of the recent Dark Age of losses and litigation, it would be hailed as the document that secured the future prosperity of the market.

Lloyd's is not out of the woods yet. Asbestos, pollution and catastrophe claims continue to pour in and the names continue to vote with their feet, but if Lloyd's can limp through to the middle of the decade, it will owe a huge debt of thanks to David Rowland and his task force colleagues.

Leading article, page 15  
Task force report, page 24

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Woolfie yearns for home life

ANOTHER of the stalwarts of the City will soon be retreating to the hinterland. John Woolfenden, aged 51, once the senior partner of Mousdale, the Liverpool-based gills jobber, until it merged with Phillips & Drew where he was initially employed as deputy chairman of its debt division and then, for the past three years, as group compliance officer. "I want to go home," says Woolfenden, who has been spending four nights a week in a London flat, returning home to Wigan at weekends. "I'm fed up with spending four nights a week on my own. After a while it starts to get you down." Woolfenden, known as "Woolfie", says his decision to return to his roots was partly influenced by the decision to replace the Stock Exchange council with a new-style board. He had been a member of the council for ten years and also served on three committees: the gill and fixed interest committee, and the membership committee, of which he is still chairman. "I set up the compliance department at UBS. It is now running well and my successor is in place," he adds. Michael Perry, aged 52, Woolfenden's deputy, hitherto responsible for corporate finance compliance within the firm, succeeded him as group compliance officer on January 1 and Woolfenden will leave at the end of this month. The return to his roots will not, however, be



"So I said: why not try moving to Russia?"

complete until April when he starts his new job — as compliance officer for BWD Rensburg, the agency broker. Rensburg and Mousdale were, in dual capacity days, the same firm.

IN A letter to *The Wyoming Traction*, published in *America*, a taxpayer explains how he received a strongly worded "second notice" that his tax payment was overdue. He hurried along to the tax office, paid the bill in full, and apologised, explaining that he must have overlooked or mislaid the first notice. "Oh," said the tax collector with a smile, "we don't send out first notices anymore. We've found that second notices are more effective."

**Challenge for Dale**  
BRITAIN'S balance of payments deficit could be set to improve. Iain Dale, chief executive of Dale Electric, a manufacturer of generating sets, who is about to announce improved first-half profits — expected to be about

£400,000, against a loss last time of £146,000 — has just been promoted from the South East Asia Trade Advisory Group, to the main board of its parent, the British Overseas Trade Board. The promotion, which means that Dale, aged 51, will be rubbing shoulders regularly with the likes of Peter Lilley, The Duke of Kent and Sir John Banham, is said to be in recognition of his efforts as chairman of the South East Asia group during the past four years. In that time, exports to the region have increased almost 50 per cent, from £1.7 billion to £2.6 billion. The challenge has now been set for him to repeat the feat, but on a much bigger scale.

### In deep water?

HOSTING the publicity launch of the new International Boat Show at Salford Quays, on a typically overcast Mancunian day, Robert Keys, one of the new inner city ministers and, as such, responsible for Manchester and Salford, predicted that the image of the area would be transformed from Coronation Street to that of Costa del Salford. "Who needs Earls Court?" he said, pointing out that simply getting to the Boat Show in London meant enduring pollution and traffic congestion. However, in so doing, he may have upset one of the Conservative party's staunchest supporters. Earls Court is, of course, owned by P & O, whose chairman, Lord Sterling, was a trade adviser to Mrs Thatcher and a major contributor to Tory funds.

CAROL LEONARD

## Engineering industry to blame for failing to draw the talented

From Mr J.P. Hackney  
Sir, Ross Tieman reports ("Protests grow over sale of Ties must port assets", January 13) that "Malcolm Rifkind has assured Parliament that the selection process for the sale was properly conducted". That claim ignores the facts.

On at least eight counts, the sale process can be clearly identified as flawed.

The recommended bid included a proposal that a member of the existing authority would be offered a seat on the new company's board. To those judging the bids, this posed a clear conflict of interest.

The government's objective of encouraging the whole or a substantial management employee ownership of the bus-

ness is hardly met by the bidder's offer of a 5 per cent involvement held for employees.

Just as significantly, the recommended bidder was allowed to amend its bid twice.

On these three counts alone it is evident that the process was flawed.

This is not the way to privatise one of our key trading sectors; neither does it encourage the remainder of the rest of the industry.

Mr Rifkind should overturn the recommended bid and call for a further review.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HACKNEY  
(Chairman),  
THPA Consortium PLC,  
17-27 Queens Square,  
Middlesbrough,  
Cleveland.

## Stix nix fan

From Mr A. Abeles  
Sir, I've been reading, enjoying, and relying on *Variety* for news of the entertainment world for so long that when its now-famous headline "Stix Nix Hix Pix" came out it was like my dear old mother whispering to me.

It did not mean that audiences in rural areas of America were rejecting blockbusters that metropolitan audiences were enjoying, as Philip Robinson writes (January 13); it meant they were not interested in films about themselves.

People new to "the trade bible" should not be put off by its inventive, saccato headlines. In a few years, they will become crystal clear.

Yours sincerely,  
ARTHUR ABELES,  
Ex-Managing Director,  
Warner Bros (UK),  
3 Durham Place, SW3.

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17.1	247	126	BAA	263	
18.1	237	122	By Airways	251	+ 1
19.1	237	138	Continental (H)	168	
20.1	200	54	Deutsche Northwest	184	
21.1	13.2	344	Eastern	158	+ 2
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23.1	12.1	28	Imperial War	13	
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## SPORTS LETTERS

## Time for rugby's rivals to bury hatchet

From Mr Peter R. Priestner  
Sir, I cannot believe that the sentiments expressed by Mr Wall (January 9) on "code-poaching" are representative of fair-minded followers of rugby union.

The number of former rugby union players in professional rugby league would not cramp the average clubhouse bar and for every rugby union star approached by a rugby league club there are probably a dozen players who have asked professional clubs for trials. There are far more amateur rugby league clubs and players than professional and choice is what every sportsman should have.

Over the years Gareth Edwards and Barry John have written of their reasons for rejecting approaches from rugby league and more recently Will Carling and Jeremy Guscott have openly declared their choice to continue in rugby union.

A no-way-back policy for former rugby union players is the chief cause of ill-feeling between the codes, although a glimmer of hope appeared when Steve Ford was allowed to play for Wales after playing in a trial for a professional rugby league club. Oh that this commonsense attitude could be expanded.

Regarding "cherished amateurism", is it not time that rugby union stopped pretending and accepted that trust funds to bank the perks of sporting ability are a cover for professionalism?

During and just after the second world war there were games between league and union teams, with rules exchanged at half-time. Here in the North we enjoy the best of both worlds. Many players of rugby union on Saturdays

support rugby league on Sundays and supporters regularly watch both codes.

In the build-up to the centenary of the breakaway by the Northern Union in August 1895 will the administrators of both codes please get together and bury the hatchet. Have we not come full circle over a century on the matter of players having the right to earn a living?

In Australia the New South Wales Rugby Union is seeking corporate sponsors to establish a fund to reward players for their time away from work.

Here I believe sponsors would fight to promote a game between world rugby union and league sides which would fill Wembley Stadium (or Twickenham) and provide profits for a chosen charity. How about it for the start of the 1995-96 season, or earlier, to celebrate freedom to move to and from both codes and an end to decades of bitterness between two great sports?

Yours faithfully,  
P. R. PRIESTNER,  
Rivington Cottage,  
Hollyhedge Lane,  
Higher Walton,  
Warrington,  
Cheshire.

From Mr W. A. Anderson

Sir, While rugby union must inevitably, though temporarily, be weakened by losing players of the calibre of Craig Innes, such condescending attitudes to rugby league as displayed by Mr Wall can only deflect clear thought from the real issue.

Innes, as others before, has left an amateur game and turned professional to receive financial reward for his ability.

presented, and left the scene clutching the bottle, which he no doubt used properly at a later date.

As Oscar Wilde so rightly observed: "... if the lower orders don't set us a good example, what on earth is the use of them?"

Yours truly,  
DAVID H. WALTON,  
10 St Guthlac's Close,  
Crowland,  
Leicestershire.

## Backdoor cuts in funding

From Mr Tom Pendry, MP for Stalybridge and Hyde (Labour)

Sir, The first of John Goodbody's articles on the funding of sport (January 15) might also have mentioned the swingeing backdoor cuts that the government has made, away from the limelight, in direct aid for local authority support through the Urban Programme.

Figures supplied to me in parliamentary answers have revealed that, since 1986, government support for sport through UP has fallen in real terms by £40 million — almost the entire annual budget of the Sports Council.

What is more, this behind-

the-scenes draining of funds seems set to continue for the foreseeable future, which provides a crucial additional reason, on top of the well-known problem of race-capping which Goodbody mentions, for the projected decimation of local authorities' support for sport.

Faced with this situation, whether local sport in the 1990s? Without a more positive lead from government, and an immediate halt to this sleight-of-hand robbery, the answer must be towards further decline.

Yours faithfully,  
TOM PENDRY,  
House of Commons.

## Solving disputes

From Dr Karl Mackie

Sir, Mr David Teasdale (January 9) is right to identify the need for conciliation to be used more systematically to resolve the direct and indirect costs of sports disputes. Such disputes are likely to grow in number as the sporting world increasingly becomes an arena for international wealth creation and distribution, as well as entertainment.

Our organisation is non-profit-making and was launched with the support of the CBI in 1990 to promote the use of mediation techniques. Our experience suggests that

## Trivial pursuit

From Mr D. L. Heaton

Sir, The recent Nick Faldo World of Golf challenge on BBC television seemed a good idea to pit three sporting worthies, Boham, Mansell and Thompson, against our leading golfer. However, if the BBC is to continue its superb work in the presentation of golf, it should think carefully about the format of these challenges.

The behaviour of the three challengers trivialised the game. It was not the form of the challenge — it has been known for years as a Texas scramble and good fun it is when played with some style.

The behaviour of the challengers left much to be desired in respect of golf etiquette and, I suspect, if they had been playing on their own courses, would have

been the subject of criticism.

I exclude Boham from much of the criticism, but Mansell, as a serious golfer, did not behave as he should. You do not shout, fall on the ground and generally exhibit if your ball does not perform as you expect. Thompson, a nice lad and very talented in his field, should not be let loose on a golf course, let alone before television cameras, until he learns what the game is all about.

I am sure the programme was intended to be amusing and different, which it was — but at a cost. If we are to see golf trivialised on television for the purpose of entertainment, it will be reduced to the level of the game show.

Yours faithfully,  
D. L. HEATON,  
East Cottage,  
Weybourne, Norfolk.

## SQUASH RACKETS

## Parke and Jackman lead teenage threat

By COLIN MCQUILLAN



Parke: serious intent

THE Fight For Sight national championships, which start in Manchester today, could well conclude at the Armitage Centre next Tuesday evening with the first pair of teenage British champions in the history of the sport.

Cassandra Jackman, of Norfolk, and Simon Parke, of Yorkshire, both aged 19, and the junior world champions, are seeded third and fourth respectively in the most competitive national competitions for years.

Such is the strength of the men's field that Paul Carter, the 1988 winner, makes the top 16 group only marginally ahead of Adrian Davies, the Wales No. 1, and the Scotland champion, Colin Keith.

The men's seedings are led by the young English group that has shaken up the professional circuit this season, with Peter Marshall, the Leicester double-handicap, and the leading Essex pair of Del Harris and Chris Walker ahead of Parke.

Marshall is drawn in the same quarter as Paul Gregory, the rugged south Londoner, who surprisingly lifted the title last year after Marshall missed his semi-final through food poisoning.

Gregory, seeded deceptively low at No. 7 this year, has timed his training approach for this season. "My main ambition is to actually beat Marshall this time if we meet in the quarter-finals," he said.

Harris, the first teenager to win the men's crown when he defeated Ashley Naylor in 1987, is locked into a quarter that reads like an Essex closed championship.

A demanding third-round match against John Ransome is likely to lead to a quarter-final against Tony Hands, an unexpected semi-finalist last year, who defeated Harris for the first time in a decade of constant competition in the Dutch Open last month.

Parke, whose last contribution to the world professional tour was to trouble Ianahier Khan in the first round of the Dutch Open, this contributing to the Pakistani's demotion from the world No. 1 ranking, is drawn in a relatively comfortable quarter.

His withdrawal from league play this week, to protect a slight hamstring strain, suggests serious intent on reaching a scheduled semi-

final against the victor of the Marshall-Gregory match.

Jackman's progress to the later stages of the women's championship is more problematical yet not beyond the scope of a player who reached three leading finals in her first four months on the senior world tour last year.

She is due for a third-round meeting with Jane Martin, the uncompromising Northumbrian, who defeated her in the British Open under-23 final last month, and a quarter-final against Lucy Souter, the national champion of 1985 and 1989, who beat her in the quarter-finals last year.

If she survives, Jackman is then likely to meet Martine Le Moignan, the vastly experienced defending champion, in the semi-finals.

The bottom half of the women's draw in Manchester should produce a semi-final between Lisa Opie, the No. 2 seed and four-time winner, and Sue Wright.

Opie was the first teenage British champion when she defeated Angela Smith in 1981, at the age of 18. Wright, the steadily improving 21-year-old, from Kent, was beaten by Opie when she won the British Open for the first time last April.

LEADING SEEDS: Men: 1, P. Marshall (Leic); 2, D. Harris (Essex); 3, C. Walker (Essex); 4, S. Parke (York); 5, T. Hands (Essex); 6, J. Keith (Scot); 7, P. Gregory (Essex); 8, P. Marshall (Leic); 9, S. Jackman (Norf); 10, M. Le Moignan (Frd); 11, C. Souter (Wilt); 12, L. Souter (Wilt); 13, J. Ransome (Leic); 14, A. Davies (Wales); 15, D. Carter (Wales); 16, P. Marshall (Leic); 17, S. Parke (York); 18, C. Walker (Essex); 19, T. Hands (Essex); 20, J. Keith (Scot); 21, M. Le Moignan (Frd); 22, L. Souter (Wilt); 23, J. Ransome (Leic); 24, A. Davies (Wales); 25, D. Carter (Wales); 26, P. Marshall (Leic); 27, S. Parke (York); 28, C. Walker (Essex); 29, T. Hands (Essex); 30, J. Keith (Scot); 31, M. Le Moignan (Frd); 32, L. Souter (Wilt); 33, J. Ransome (Leic); 34, A. Davies (Wales); 35, D. Carter (Wales); 36, P. Marshall (Leic); 37, S. Parke (York); 38, C. Walker (Essex); 39, T. Hands (Essex); 40, J. Keith (Scot); 41, M. Le Moignan (Frd); 42, L. Souter (Wilt); 43, J. Ransome (Leic); 44, A. 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League's presidential race ends in no-contest

## McKeag earns massive vote of confidence

BY PETER BALL

GORDON McKeag, of Newcastle United, is the new president of the Football League. McKeag was elected unopposed yesterday, filling the vacancy created by the death of Bill Fox, when Doug Ellis, of Aston Villa, withdrew his nomination.

The result became virtually a formality once the first division clubs, who will break away to form the Premier League in the summer, decided that they should not contest the position.

McKeag, aged 64, a Newcastle solicitor, will now chair both the old and new Football League boards. He is already chairman of the shadow board elected last year to prepare the League for when it reduces to 72 clubs at the end of this season.

The present management committee will continue to administer the League until the end of the season and McKeag's presence on both should make for a smooth transition.

He will also take up a position on the Football Association executive, an important

role with considerable negotiations between the two bodies still to be completed. He is already chairman of the FA Challenge Cup sub-committee.

McKeag said yesterday: "Cynics might say it is a little like being appointed captain of the Titanic just before the crash, but there is a lot of steaming left in the Football League yet. If the Premier League clubs do go, my job will be to try to ensure that the parting is as amicable and dignified as possible."

A member of the management committee since 1988, McKeag stood for the presidency in 1989, when the conflict between the first division and the rest were becoming acute, yet lost to Fox.

He has inherited the job too late for his diplomacy to heal the breach but he will undoubtedly be a popular choice to preside over the changes.

A former county rugby player, and the Norwegian consul in Newcastle, he is widely respected for his integrity in a sport not noted for it. He is more of a diplomat

than his predecessor and there is little doubt about his courage and determination, which he demonstrated during his time as Newcastle chairman. He kept unswervingly to the path he believed was right for the club in the face of appalling personal abuse.

Leading the League will also be demanding. Although the shadow board's planning for next season will be the most important task he faces over the next few months, negotiations with the FA and Premier League still have some way to go.

□ Roy Dwight, the former Nottingham Forest winger, has died at his home in Kent aged 59. Dwight scored Forest's opening goal in the 1959 FA Cup Final against Luton Town before being carried off with a broken leg. As a manager, he later had spells with Brith and Belvedere, Dartford and Tooting and Mitcham.

Substitutes poised, page 31

## Atkinson steering Villa towards brighter future

BY DENNIS SHAW

WHEN Ron Atkinson moved, in his customary cloud of controversy, from Hillsborough to Villa Park last summer, few doubted that he would steer Aston Villa towards a future more befitting the famous old club.

Now, little more than six months on, Atkinson's success as a financial wheeler-dealer is proving even more dramatic than his achievement as a team-builder.

As his new club prepares to face the one he left behind, at Villa Park on Saturday, Atkinson can point to a top-six

place in the first division, progress to the fourth round of the FA Cup, the promise of a further attendance upsurge and a remarkable profit on deals of up to £5 million.

This, plus healthy attendances and the ever-present possibility of attracting television cameras and the attendant fee, not to mention sponsorship and advertising.

"We can go above Sheffield Wednesday in the table if we can win by enough goals," he points out, quietly getting his priorities right while relishing the fifth place in the first

division such a result would earn. Atkinson, aged 52, is noticeably more mature now, and not only in his expanded shape.

There is no gleeful popping of champagne corks as he reflects on a draw at the home of the champions, Arsenal, last Saturday and victory away to the FA Cup holders, Tottenham Hotspur, in the third-round replay of the FA Cup on Tuesday. Tea and commonsense is the formula.

"It's head-out-of-the-clouds time," he stresses, contemplating Wednesday's visit. The last three home League games, against Manchester City, West Ham United and Southampton, have been won and Tottenham held to a draw in the Cup before the replay knockout.

This record, plus the hope in the hearts of Wednesday supporters that defeat by Villa on the opening day can be avenged by means of a back-lash from last Sunday's 6-1 defeat by Leeds United, will attract a 30,000 gate to Villa Park on Saturday. After that comes the away tie with either Derby County or Burnley, then a live TV game at home to Everton on Sunday February 2. More income, perhaps more progress. Certainly, with Atkinson at the helm it will never be dull.

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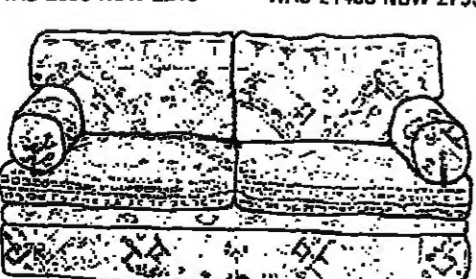
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BY MICHAEL HOBBS

PICTURE a pleasant enough oil painting of a country scene with, perhaps, a cottage, a couple of cows, a few sheep and a milkmaid. If carried out by a minor late Victorian painter, let us say it would be worth just a few hundred pounds — unless it contains some golf interest.

Values then change dramatically. Remove the milkmaid — though the sheep and cows can remain — and instead have a small flag fluttering in the breeze and a couple of distant figures with canvas golf bags slung from their shoulders. Now an auction-hammer price can be reckoned in thousands.

If the painter is a famous name, no limit has yet been set, because icons of golf art have yet to come on the market. A price of £1 million would not be out of the question, though the present auction record stands at only £165,000. That was for a study of an eventual finished portrait of a captain of the Royal and Ancient, John Whyte-Melville. It was painted by Sir Francis Grant, the

Royal Academy president, in 1874. I wonder for what sum the R and A has insured the finished version which hangs in the Big Room of the St Andrews clubhouse?

Paintings are just one of the fields for golf collecting, though, because of comparative rarity, they fetch high prices. Apart from the equipment for playing the game, jewellery, metalware, ceramics, photographs, small figures and even horse-shoe boots all have much enhanced values if there is golf connection. That Royal Doulton teapot, for instance, needs a figure posed on the follow-through far more than a coach and horses.

At any golf sale, however, clubs predominate. But not the multi-coloured club of the modern player. Collectors, though they avidly play the game and buy the latest temptations from the manufacturers' as naively as the rest of us, disdain even the steel shaft. Coming into general use towards the end of the 1920s, it is far too modern a product. Wooden shafts are what is wanted, and only, generally, if made

with the side from the Diadora League, whose manager, Geoff Chapple, described Sillett as "the most relieved man in the ground".

Sillett said: "Working are a credit to their league. Some of their players would walk into many third and fourth division sides. I put our win down to my decision to wear the same tie and trousers that I wore at Wembley in 1987. They obviously did the trick, although the trousers are a bit tight these days."

Sillett's old club went out, not for the first time against inferior opposition, at the Abbey Stadium, Cambridge.

United secured a fourth round home tie against Swindon after Dublin had missed a nineteenth-minute penalty. The rebound was deflected into the net by Hunt, of Coventry. "Coventry have got to hold their hands up," John Beck, the Cambridge manager said. "We looked like the first division side out there."

Second division also defeated first at Selhurst Park. The FA Cup winners in 1988, Wimbledon, have won only one game in the 16-match managerial reign of Peter Withe, and they failed to improve against Bristol City, whose 1-0 replay win gives

them a visit to Leicester City. Withe remains defiant: "I have never walked away from a battle in my life and I will not walk away from this one," he said after listening to persistent cries of "Withe out" from the 3,747 strong crowd.

REVERSED FA CUP FOURTH-ROUND RESULTS: Bolton v. Bournemouth, 1-0; Oxford v. Leyton Orient, 1-0; Sheffield Wednesday v. Millwall, 1-0; Oxford v. Sunderland, 1-0; Coventry v. Sheffield United, 1-0; Bristol City v. Norwich City, 1-0; Southampton v. Leeds, 1-0; Manchester United v. West Ham, 1-0; Nottingham Forest v. Ipswich, 1-0; Huddersfield v. Burnley, 1-0; Reading v. Luton, 1-0; Derby v. Aston Villa, 1-0. (See p. 27 for details of the 16th round.)

## Sillett takes strides to Forest

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

JOHN Sillett knows all about FA Cup glory. A winner in 1987 when manager of Coventry City, he is part of this season's fourth round as manager of Hereford United.

He can look forward to a tie at Nottingham Forest thanks to Tuesday night's 2-1 win — after extra-time — against Woking at Edgar Street. However, rarely was a third round exit so ill-deserved.

If Brian Clough had been watching Forest's next FA Cup opponents, he could have been forgiven for confusing the fourth division team

with the side from the Diadora League, whose manager, Geoff Chapple, described Sillett as "the most relieved man in the ground".

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## Scarborough's revolutionary plan

BY A CORRESPONDENT

SCARBOROUGH Football Club hopes to save £30,000 a year by training its own stewards, trained by the police, fire, and St John's Ambulance services, would be responsible for crowd control next season.

Richmond admitted that the police might still be required for "high risk matches" or cup ties, but said the club would take responsibility for the majority of home games.

The local police have positively welcomed my initiative," he said yesterday. "I think they accept my view that hooliganism is no longer fashionable and has dramatically declined in Scarborough, and that this will release resources for other law and order duties."

"All we need now is for the county council's safety committee to give us the go-ahead. If they do, we'll begin training our stewards up to the required accreditation. We hope to have a trial run under the new arrangements

before the end of the season," Chief Inspector Hammond, of Scarborough police, said. The force was prepared to pull out but added: "We'll have to wait to see what the county council says."

A League spokesman confirmed that Scarborough, who have debts of £500,000 and an average attendance of only 1,866, would be the first club in the English Football League to police its own games if North Yorkshire county council sanctioned the scheme.

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## Family priority for Irish wing

BY DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SIMON Geoghegan, who came to the fore during last year's five nations' rugby union championship, withdrew yesterday from the Irish team to play Wales in Dublin on Saturday.

The London Irish wing, aged 23, did so because his mother is seriously ill; in the circumstances, it has been difficult for Geoghegan to concentrate on his rugby. The Irish selectors were willing to leave the decision until 24 hours before the match, but the player felt it appropriate to pull out of what would have been his ninth international before the squad trained yesterday evening.

Geoghegan's place goes to Richard Wallace, named originally on the left wing. The selectors had been trying with the possibility of switching their wings round anyway because Wallace plays on the right for Garryowen, his club; they are now in the happy position of being able to restore to the side Ireland's most capped wing, Keith Crossan.

Wales trained in Cardiff yesterday evening and will fly to Dublin this afternoon. England, who meet Scotland at Murrayfield on Saturday, worked yesterday at the Six Nations Memorial ground before this morning's main training, which will be private.

□ The dispute between the Rugby Football Union and Cotton Traders over England's kit will remain unresolved before Saturday's match at Murrayfield. Barristers met in the High Court yesterday and the case was adjourned after a one-minute hearing with both sides asking for more time to prepare their cases.

A full hearing is due later this month, when Cotton Traders will pursue its action to have its new-style World Cup shirt, which incorporates blue and red stripes, worn by the England squad.

## Caribbean tour for S Africans

Johannesburg: Clyde Walcott, the president of the West Indies cricket board, arrived here yesterday and said that South Africa are likely to tour the Caribbean after the World Cup. The visit will probably include one-day internationals in Barbados, Trinidad and Jamaica.

Walcott and Steve Cannacho, the board's secretary, are here for ten days of talks. They will also study the development programme for underprivileged players. India will play four Test matches and nine one-day internationals when they tour South Africa this year, according to a provisional itinerary. (AFP)

## Golf's memorabilia goes under the hammer

BY MICHAEL HOBBS

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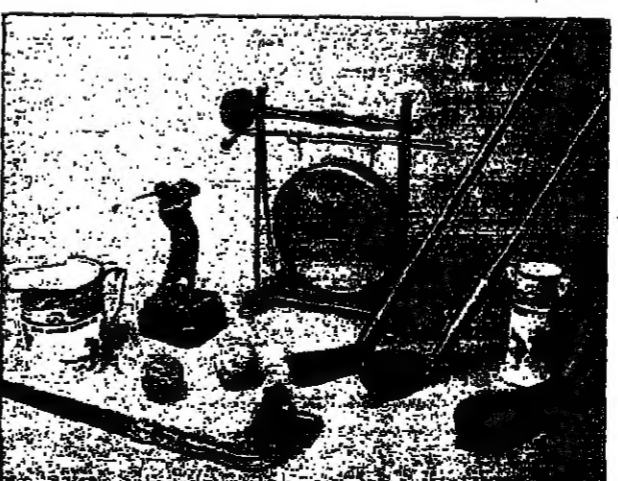
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Up for sale: golf relics await wealthy bidders

earlier than the twentieth century. There can be exceptions. Not long ago, a bizarre club, made in about 1905 and described as a Brown's patent rake iron, which had long teeth, became the world's most expensive golf club when it fetched £55,000 at a Christie's auction, when the pre-sale estimate was about £200.

Rumour has it that the bidders were not that well informed and believed they were competing for a true rarity. Collectors knew that similar examples were none too hard to come by for around £600. Even so, the drama of big money has raised the general value of this particular patent club to around £3,000 to £5,000.

One will come under the hammer at the Phillips sale at Chester tomorrow. This is

one of the four big sales of the golf year. The others, conducted by again, Phillips, and also Christie's and Sotheby's, take place during the week of the Open Championship.

I do not expect this January sale to be sensational. It does, however, have a ball made by Allan Robertson on offer. Robertson, who died in 1859, a year before the Open Championship began, was the first player to be generally accepted as the greatest of his time. A mint example of one of his featherly golf balls has fetched a record £15,000. It will be interesting to see how this one does.

Made around 1850, it was presented by the Warwickshire County Golf Club in 1916. But featheries turn up at every sale. Gutter-percha balls began to come into use from 1848, and because the rubber ball was so quickly recognised as both better and cheaper than the featherly, some took the trouble to preserve an almost instant relic of the golfing past.

Less care was devoted to early gutties. Phillips has an interesting example from the early years of the modern ball. Just as manufacturers used to paint steel shafts brown so that they had a rough resemblance to hickorywood, this one attempts to usher 1850s golfers into the new age by replicating the stitching which a featherly needed (a wide case over a centre of tight-packed feathers), similar to a modern fives ball.

The main problem with early guttas was that they were smooth and therefore failed entirely to anticipate modern thoughts on the effect of depth and shape of dimpling. Quickly, however, early makers improved the aerodynamics by hand hammering and, later, moulding. This featherly imitation might have behaved a little better than a smooth gutta ball — if not by much. But it is an extreme rarity. Phillips gave it an estimate of £2,000 to £4,000 for the sale; it ought at least to break the records for a gutta percha ball.

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